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# High Times

October '76

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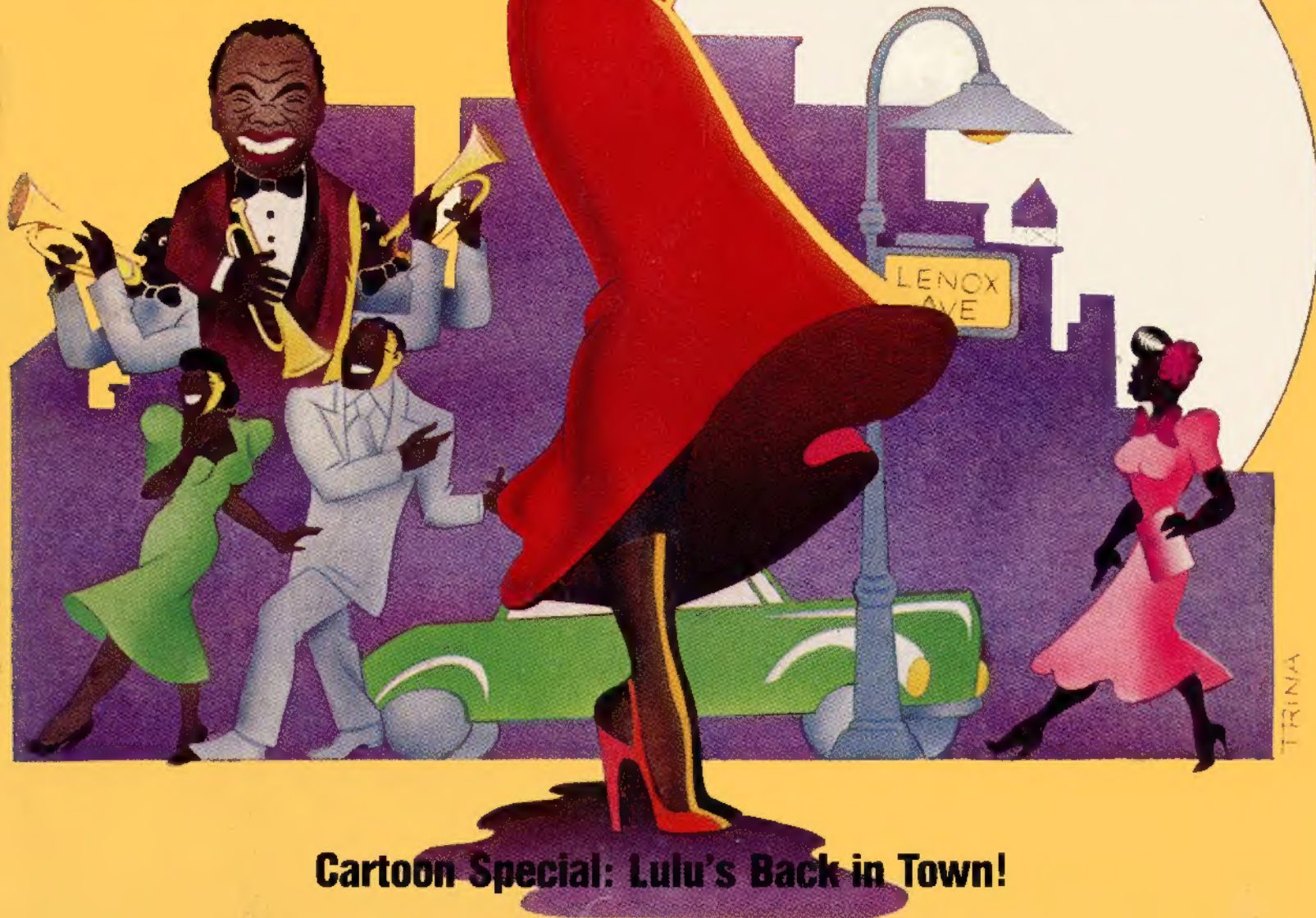
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# High Times

THE MAGAZINE OF HIGH SOCIETY

October 1976

No. 14

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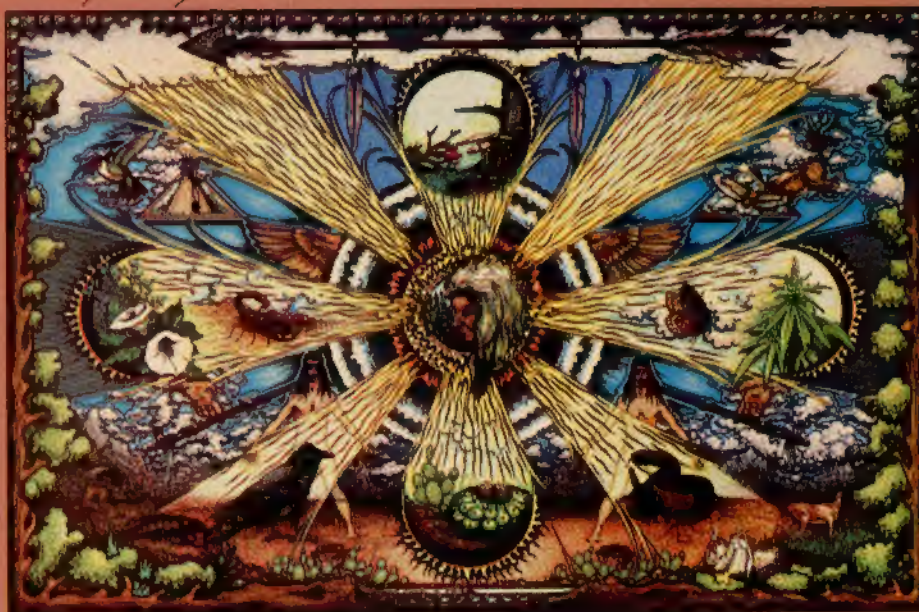
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# High Times

THE MAGAZINE OF HIGH SOCIETY

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# Letters

## Missouri Breaks

I want to thank you for your help in getting legal help for my son Jerry, for I have to admit that when I called you on June 30 I didn't know what I was going to do. I feel that now, with the good lawyers Jerry has, there is hope for the future again. If you are ever in West Plains, you are always welcome at my home.

—Roy Mitchell, West Plains, Mo.

Editor's note:

A few months back, the High Times news department got wind of the trial of 19-year-old Jerry Mitchell, who had been sentenced to 12 years in a Missouri prison for possession of 11 grams of marijuana. Two phone calls later, we discovered that both Jerry's parents were blind and that if he went to prison, his mother and father would be left to fend for themselves.

We alerted the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) to the situation; director Keith Stroup and San Francisco lawyer Michael Stepanian immediately flew to the small town of West Plains, where Jerry was being held in the local jail. Concurrently, the news department coordinated information with the local newspaper, the West Plains Quill, and put Jerry's situation in the proper perspective.

"At first no one knew what to expect," said Stroup upon his arrival in West Plains. But two days later, Stroup and Stepanian got Jerry out on bail, set up an appeal for later this month and had Jerry's sentence immediately reduced from 12 to 7 years.

## Anger Amused...

I found Glenn O'Brien's article in High Times (Aug. '76) very amusing—as science fiction. For the record, there is no fist to be found in *Astraeum Argenteum* ritual.

—Kenneth Anger

## ...But Ott is Not

Who is this crank Glenn O'Brien? What right has he to violate the pristine scholarship of Gordon Wasson? "Piss..." (this would have sufficed for a title) is superficial, glib, frivolous and importune. What interest has High Times in such spurious drivel? This article is insulting and denigrating to Wasson, whose work will one day be considered to have spawned the Psychedelic Age. Readers are further insulted by Stimeling's inset. The mountebank assaults the reader with an execrable distillate of more than a century of erroneous work on *Amanita muscaria*, liberally fleshed out with speculation asserted as fact.

O'Brien has Soma playing the role of a rage- and frenzy-producing drug. Bullshit! Wasson carefully shows that Soma was not so and that *A. muscaria* in

Siberia, likewise, was more soporific than stimulating. But of course this would automatically deflate O'Brien's absurd thesis on Soma and the genesis of sado-masochism. O'Brien has the priests giving their urine to underlings, but as Wasson explains, the priests alone were party to the Soma sacrifice. This pathetic article is full of other inaccuracies, too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that the basic assumptions underlying it are false and ridiculous. O'Brien only succeeds in rendering tedious, absurd and boring a subject intrinsically alive with excitement and mystery.

Stimeling's "Sociochemistry..." inset heaped insult on injury. He reiterates all the old myths on the toxicity of *A. muscaria*, all born of erroneous chemical work. I have taken great pains to expunge from the public consciousness such myths as the content of bufotenine and atropine in the mushroom.

—Jonathan Ott, San Antonio, Tex.

## Ms. Liberty

Hope you like my backyard Bicentennial crop. It was some of the nicest Jamaican and gold I've ever grown. I regret to say it



was harvested early due to its eagerness to peer over my neighbor's fence.

—S. P. T., Hazelucky, Mich.

## Inventor of LSD

I was so impressed by the insight and precision with which Michael Horowitz conducted his interview of Dr. Albert Hofmann [High Times, July '76] that I had to write. Suffice it to say that Dr. Hofmann conveyed the essence of LSD's visionary potential. His reporting was accurate, his images clear and his knowledge abundant.

—Mike Miroyan,  
Los Gatos, Ca.

## 'Shroom Boom

Just wanted to share some of this year's Texas fungus crop with you. We hereby vote for these beauties as being the per-



fect psychedelic. —Goldilocks, Sleeping Beauty and the Texarkana Tick Picker, Texarkana, Tex.

## Free the Mexico

Thank you for your accurate and much-needed articles on the Mexican prison situation. I have seen several shakedowns and have many friends, both Mexican and American, in jails throughout Mexico. Representative Goldwater's visit to the prisons is a good start toward freeing a lot of people who should not be there. Now it's time for me to board my plane and get my 1,500 pounds of fine pot off my rancho and across the border.

—Manuel Mota, Mexico

## Grande Grass

Thought you might like to see my tub of tops. These 41 pounds of Mexican colas were just recently copped in the Rio



Grande Valley in southern Texas. The tops average 10 to 12 inches long, with some as long as 17 inches. —Bill and Sig, Austin, Tex.

## Your Daddy Was from Outer Space

I'd like to correct a few misconceptions in your article "Your Daddy Was a Weirdo" [High Times, July]. The Masonic Order is basically a social club, but only a few people behind the scenes know what it's all about. They are influenced by a higher group of beings who also affect many of earth's religious, scientific and political movements. Known as the Hierarchy, their job is to stabilize humanity's evolutionary development. Most who are in-



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fluenced by the Hierarchy don't even know they exist. One person who did was Madame Blavatsky, as she reveals in her book *The Secret Doctrine*. Her present-day successor is Alice Bailey.

Aura research, psychic discovery and UFOs are all a part of this organized universe activity. Uri Geller and Dr. Andrija Puharich (author of *The Sacred Mushroom and Uri*) are also direct channels in contact with the Hierarchy. The most recent revelation on earth of this group is *The Urantia Book*, written by 55 outer-space personalities. Consisting of individual papers on the history of Urania (Earth), the book contains the true account of Jesus Christ, including the 18 years lost in the Biblical account. Francis Bacon was speaking directly of the Hierarchy (of which he is a member) in his book *The New Atlantis*. Funny to think that Shakespeare (really Bacon) was an initiate—another case of dimension intervention. One of the first men on the moon, Edgar Mitchell, also acknowledges these truths and is doing psychic research at Stanford Research Institute.

— Bruce and Leslie Magnusen,  
Marro Bay, Ca.

### Canuck Cannabis

Your avid readers up here in Ottawa are glad to see you've started publication on a



monthly basis. Enclosed is a photograph of some fine Colombian weed grown indoors here in Canada's capital.

— J. P.E. M., Ottawa, Ont.

### Cosmic Jello

Re: that Masonic Jello thing for "Closers," *High Times*, July. "Aligns with the cosmic force field of our universe..." Which force field? Which universe? It's got gelatin in it! Do you know what gelatin is? It's made by boiling the leftovers of slaughtered animals—the bones, gristle, hooves and skins. And then there's the white sugar. Don't you people know about white sugar? My dears, we get high (or stupid, depending on our choice) through whatever we consume, including dope.

Jello is synthetic: "To make gold, you must have gold." *Cosmic force field*?

I really look forward to each new issue, and I'm glad *High Times* is now a monthly. But why do you have to have such repulsive advertising—like the whole page of "Love Toys" on page 106 of the July issue. What's high about a vibrator? Gentlepersons, that's low on the chakra span. True, sex exists, but so does everything else. Sexual consciousness portrayed on a higher level would be Tantric art on one end of the chakra spectrum, and maybe something that would bounce light in your eye on the other end, if you can find something sexual that would open the light. These are two versions of the same (sexual) level—provided getting horny is your thing. But the "love toys" page is unholy, unhigh and therefore unworthy of *High Times*. P.S.: Johnny Bob is okay!

— Gloria Lightheart, San Francisco, Ca.

### Precious Bodily Fluorides

I regret that Richard Ashley ["The Fight for Legal Cocaine," *High Times*, June '76] chose General Jack Ripper (of the film *Dr. Strangelove*) as an example of the kind of mind that calls cocaine the drug "most favored by blacks and criminals." The general's belief in a communist conspiracy behind fluoridation is ludicrous enough, but there is now evidence to suggest he was right in saying fluoridation "destroys our precious bodily fluids." Even if fluoridation proves harmless in the end, the fact that it is placed into whole city water-supply systems, against the will of many of the citizens who must drink that water, is a violation of our freedom of choice. I was surprised to see Ashley make light of such a serious issue.

— Mark Coleman, Honolulu, Hawaii

### It Ain't Hay

How you gonna keep 'em down on the farm? No way! The dryer in the photo can handle up to 9,000 bushels, but here it's only half full. The crop was the fruit



of our labor last summer, and we feel it's the best homegrown in Wisconsin. It all goes to show you reap what you sow.

— Name and address withheld

### Michigan Muggles

Here's a photo of some plants grown in Monroe County, Michigan. Final size of



these beauties was 9'4" tall and 4' in diameter. — T.L., Monroe County, Mich.

### Informative Burnstine Epitaph

Your article on Kenny Burnstine in the August issue was very accurate in some points. At this moment I'm serving 15 years for possession of 3.29 grams of procaine, with intent, in Columbia, South Carolina. I was arrested in Atlanta on December 1, 1975, on a fugitive warrant from Pickens County, South Carolina. Entrapment from the word go. I, however, know and have done favors for Kenny and Billy Martin. I found out long before everybody else in Ft. Lauderdale that they were informers.

I have been asked by the DEA of Atlanta to testify against him and also to work with the DEA and Pickens in catching more people in return for my freedom. Well, I played ball with them with the sole intent of finding out how they'd set me up. It led to people in Atlanta and Ft. Lauderdale. I would like to see Kenny and Billy and some other people put away for life because of the innocent people who have been killed in the past two years. I'm no angel, but for Kenny and Billy, killing is too good.

They should suffer just as others suffer who don't have DEA and SLED [State Law Enforcement Division] agents on the take. — Ernesto Villoch, Columbia, S.C.

### G. I. Jones

Here is a picture for your ass-kicking magazine. I'm stuck in the Army until



February 1977, but things could be a little worse: The hash is pretty good over here in Germany. — Name withheld, Frankfurt

### Correction

In our last issue, we reprinted an excerpt from Tom Robbins's new novel *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*. Due to a printer's error, the copyright line was omitted: From the book *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* by Tom Robbins, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Copyright © 1976 by Thomas Robbins. ■



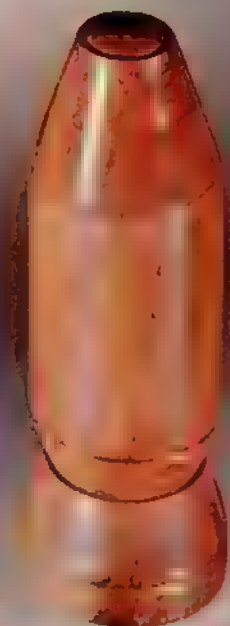


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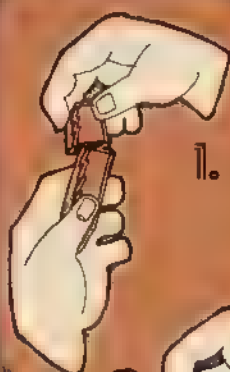
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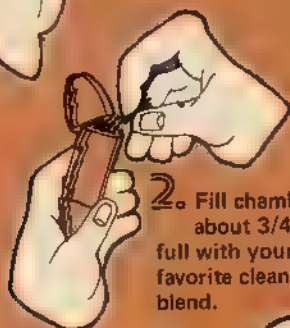


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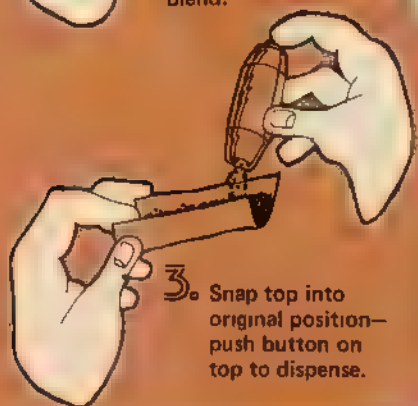
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## Florida vs. High Times

**Q:** I was recently arrested in Florida for possession of marijuana. In addition to confiscating pot and bongs for evidence, the police also took my copy of *High Times*. Can your magazine be considered paraphernalia? — A. E., Tallahassee, Fla.

**A:** Legal consultants in several states tell us that any defense attorney should be able to suppress use of the magazine as evidence of drug use, since states with paraphernalia laws (like Florida) generally define the term as articles used to administer drugs. Hash pipes, coke spoons and the like are illegal in Florida, but with the exception of pipes containing residue, paraphernalia is rarely used as evidence.

## Salting It Away

**Q:** I need some advice on the best method of keeping pot fresh and protecting it from mildew over a long period of time. I have a pound of genuine Hawaiian that, for the sake of convenience, I'd like to put in the ground until next summer. Where I live the summers are hot, and in winter the ground is frozen solid for six months. Would airtight plastic, brown paper, aluminum foil and wax suffice, or would I be losing out appreciably on freshness, taste and potency? — Jimmy J., Vancouver, B.C.

**A:** There is probably no way to keep pot completely fresh over such a long time, but your preservation scheme would work pretty well as long as nobody else sees you bury the stuff. You might add a metal container as a protection against burrowing rodents. The main thing is to be sure it's completely dry before storage to guard against mildew.

## Food for Pot

**Q:** The grower's guide I use recommends that plant nutrient suggestions be obtained from the local Agriculture Department extension service or county agent. I would like to do this, but feel it might be extremely hazardous to ask a government agency about growing *Cannabis sativa*. Can you tell us what plants have similar soil needs, such as pH and nutrients? We could then submit our soil samples as applying to a substitute crop and get test results useful to the marijuana grower.

— Buddy Good, Raleigh, N.C.

**A:** Soil that supports a good crop of corn will support a good crop of cannabis. This is probably the best "substitute crop," since it is grown in many parts of the country. Other substitutes are wheat,

oats, cotton, hops, sesame or carrots. In addition, peas, beans, alfalfa and other legumes are excellent crops to rotate with hemp because they have similar soil requirements and enrich the soil with nutrients that your cash crop needs.

## Goo Sniffing

**Q:** I recently copped a couple of grams of cocaine from a reliable dealer. There's no doubt in my mind that it was excellent toot, but due to circumstances beyond my control, it was exposed to excessive humidity for about 24 hours. Even though it was inside double layers of plastic bags and surrounded by rice, my off-white primo flake has turned into a sticky, yellow, gooey glob with the consistency of snot. However, it still numbs the tongue and tastes like the real thing. Have you ever run across a situation like this before? More importantly, can my gummy stash be returned to its original snortable condition?

— T.H.C., Alexandria, Va.

**A:** What you bought may or may not have been pure coke: lidocaine, sometimes used to cut the real thing, can turn into a paste when it absorbs moisture. In any case, the drug should not be stored in plastic, since it may react with the wrapping; that might explain the yellow color. If it has not been chemically changed, you can probably reconstitute it. Just scrape it off the plastic, wrap it securely in a coffee filter and store it in a dry place until the moisture evaporates.

Another method would be to make a simple desiccator. Put the glob in an open dish next to a dish of a moisture-absorbing compound like magnesium sulfate, calcium chloride, or sodium sulfate. Put both dishes in an airtight container until the coke is dry.

## Nutmeg Highs

**Q:** I've been hearing that you can get high off nutmeg and that it gives you a pretty good high. But I've eaten, drunk and done practically everything else you can do with nutmeg and never gotten high. What's the story?

— Evan Marshall, New York, N.Y.

**A:** Yes, it's true that nutmeg can induce a very definite altered state of consciousness, which has been described as being akin to a sleepless stupor and which may or may not be a pleasant experience. You may not have gotten high for a number of reasons:(1) You used the wrong brand of nutmeg. The psychoactive nutmeg is the ground seed of an East Indian tree called

*Myristica fragrans* (mace is the ground aril of the same tree). Most of the commercial-grade nutmeg sold in the United States is grown in the West Indies, and its potency and flavor are inferior to nutmeg from the East Indies.(2) You did not take enough. A good dose averages around 20 grams (whew!), although people have really gotten off on as little as five grams. In any event, it's not a good idea to drop a high dose until you've tried low and intermediate hits for effect.(3) You may be relatively insensitive to nutmeg. People's reactions to nutmeg do seem to vary tremendously.

As far as we know, there haven't been any OD's from nutmeg, but it seems to be a last-resort high.

## Wet Weed

**Q:** I've been wondering whether any of marijuana's active ingredients are lost in the water or pipestem when smoke passes through a bong or hookah. What is the best liquid to use?

— C.S.M., Wichita, Kans.

**A:** Delta-9-THC is almost completely insoluble in water, so you need fear no loss of potency from a water pipe. Cold water probably does cause some of the active isomers to condense out of the smoke and collect along the stem. Hot water solves this problem as well as dissolving and removing more of the inactive components. Any number of flavorings can be added to please your taste. Rum, bourbon or wine are sometimes used, but they are poor choices. The alcohol will certainly dissolve and retain some of the resin.

The residue in the stem is largely carbonized tar. This "pipe-hash" can be scraped out and smoked if you're desperate, but as you can tell from the effects, it contains little THC and will probably give you a slight headache.

## Mail-Order Paranoia

**Q:** Ads in your magazine offer everything from dope literature to mushroom spores, and I've frequently been tempted to write for such goodies. Alas, I'm paranoid. Narcs know that someone who orders a do-it-yourself dope recipe book has more than an intellectual curiosity and that the purchaser of a legal high probably dabbles with illegal ones when they're available. Then, too, mail-order firms may retain records or mailing lists that are potentially dangerous in the wrong hands. What are the chances that





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HT14

orders are monitored by the DEA or local police? —Name and address withheld  
**A:** We often make spot checks among our advertisers. To date, we've received no definite proof of harassment or spying by narcotics agents. Hopefully, the DEA is after bigger game than mail-order buyers of legal seeds.

## Pside Effects

**Q:** Many people knock synthetic psychedelics, saying they mess you up physically. Do peyote or magic mushrooms affect your body adversely?

—Ziggie and Jeff, Louisville, Ky.

**A:** Most hallucinogenic plants contain many different alkaloids. Those that aren't psychoactive sometimes produce uncomfortable bodily sensations. Purified mescaline or psilocybin gets you off with fewer side effects. The experience is different, though, and desirable aspects may be lost. Whole Psilocybe mushrooms produce few physical discomforts anyway. Any experience of such intensity puts a strain on the body, depleting its stored energy and nutrient reserves. But there is no general rule as to which do the least physical harm—synthetics, purified extracts or the plants in natural form

## Consumer Lab Reports

**Q:** Do you know of any reliable, non-governmental laboratory where I could send samples of drugs to be analyzed?

—Douglas Stevens, Dover, N.J.

**A:** Here are two laboratories that routinely do assays of anonymously sent black-market drugs: St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Inc., 201 W. Rogers St., Clearwater, Fla. 33516, and PharmChem Research Foundation, 1844 Bay Road, Palo Alto, Ca. 94303. Both labs collect their test results and publish them in monthly newsletters as ongoing surveys of street-dope quality and composition.

## No Northern NORML

**Q:** I'd like to know what's being done for all of us Canadian dope smokers. I've been busted twice up here; the first time cost me \$200, the second time \$300 and six days in jail. Is there any Canadian organization similar to NORML?

—Gary Kermath, address withheld

**A:** There is no equivalent of NORML in Canada, and we haven't even been able to locate any local marijuana lobbies there either. Many of your American friends will envy the relatively small price you paid for getting caught, though.

All questions about getting high will be considered for "Forum," and those of most interest will be answered. Be as specific as possible for most accurate responses. Anonymous queries are accepted. ☐

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I

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II

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III

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## THC Drops: Highs Through the Eyes

Eye drops made from synthetic THC have been developed that are effective in reducing pressure within the eyeball in glaucoma cases. The drops are the first drug to produce a high by being absorbed through the eyes. Dr. Keith Green, an ophthalmology teacher, said researchers will continue to work on drops that "hopefully won't have the euphoric side effects." The high is linked to marijuana's temporary effect of increasing the pulse rate while reducing blood pressure. This makes it medically inadvisable for persons with heart ailments, according to some physicians. Dr. Robert Peterson of the National Institute of Drug Abuse confirmed this drawback and added, "Not everyone enjoys getting high."

## Cyclamates Due for Comeback

Cyclamates will be back in dieters' stomachs by the end of the year, thanks to new laboratory tests on animals. Last year the Food and Drug Administration asked the National Cancer Institute to determine once and for all whether the artificial sweeteners really are carcinogenic. The institute's research panel has concluded there is no evidence the chemicals cause cancer when fed to animals, according to Dr. Arnold Brown of the Mayo Clinic. Actually, there was a small increase in cancer in the test animals, but investigators decided it was not statistically significant.

FDA Commissioner Dr. Alexander Schmidt is not happy about returning the substances to the market without an absolutely clean bill of health. However, pressure from the manufacturer, Abbott Laboratories, and diet-food companies virtually ensures the chemicals will be back this year.

## Chinese Cure Headaches with Hemp Seeds

For fast relief of headaches, many Chinese chew marijuana seeds, reports John W. English, a recent visitor to the People's Republic of China. The remedy is cheap and readily available, because hemp is grown in small clumps throughout the countryside for rope production. The

nutritious seeds have been eaten roasted for thousands of years, especially during famines, and are still grown as a food source in Manchuria and the Ukraine. The seeds are 20 to 35 percent oil, which is extracted and used for lamps in Russia.

## Legal Drug Abuse Blamed in Deaths

Only ten percent of the legal drugs taken in the civilized world are swallowed to cure disease, reports an investigative panel of the American Medical Association. Hundreds of tons of unnecessary medications kill 6,000 to 12,000 Americans each year, the AMA study claims. The doctors blame the legal abuse problem on the pharmaceutical industry, government health agencies and physicians themselves for fostering the idea that drugs are magic potions that can improve health even in the absence of illness.

The AMA came under attack once again for contributing to the demise of 100,000 Americans annually from reactions to prescribed drugs. Dr. J. Michael Smith charged the group with using its professional image to promote excessive drug use to increase the profits of companies in which the AMA has financial interests. Smith's Committee on Public Health and Safety, which is affiliated with the Church of Scientology, claims the association relies on drug advertising in its official journal for one-fourth of its income. The magazine falsely advertises certain widely used tranquilizers, Dr. Smith stated, and has consistently refused to correct the errors.

## Carnegie Hall Ends Deafening Rock

New York's Carnegie Hall decided in May to eliminate rock from its programs. The decision was made for the safety of the audiences, explained director Julius Bloom, after health authorities and hearing specialists told the hall's managers that continued sound over 105 decibels in volume could cause irreparable ear damage to listeners. That is an average level for rock concerts, although the all-time record is supposedly the 117 decibels achieved by Deep Purple in London when their sound left at least three people unconscious. A jet airliner hits about the same noise level on takeoff.

## Pot Fertilizers Debated

Dope that has been fertilized with high-nitrate-content fertilizers may possibly contain a cancer-causing substance, according to Drs. Norman R. Farnsworth and Geoffrey Cordell of the University of Illinois Medical Center. Some of the nitrates may be reduced to nitrites while still in the soil or during growth, storage or use of the grass. Conceivably these nitrites could react with nitrogen contained in other compounds that have recently been found in marijuana, called basic alkaloids. And catalyzed by the catechol derivatives, other substances in hemp, this reaction could form n-nitrosamine, which is known to be a potent carcinogen that is formed in the stomach during digestion of meats or fish preserved with nitrates or nitrites.

The pharmacologists emphasize this is only speculation, and there is no evidence as yet that any pot contains nitrosamines. No known commercial crops are currently fed high-nitrate fertilizers, though fish emulsion, an organic preparation high in nitrogen, is often used by small-scale domestic growers. Nitrates are one of the three major nutrients needed by all plants, so it would be impossible to grow pot without them. Nitrogen promotes lush foliage and is especially important in the marijuana plant's early stages of growth. Overfertilization might become more common after legalization in the U.S. in attempts to grow high-yield crops. Controls over farming methods may then be needed to prevent sale of cancer weed.

## Pot Lowers Capacity for Boredom

Marijuana will not help you cope with routine jobs, according to two New Zealand psychologists. The previous scientific consensus was that you could perform everyday tasks—typing, driving or assembly line work—as well stoned as straight, as long as you were used to pot and had experience doing the procedure while high. Not so, according to Annette Beutrais and David Marks of the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. They gave 39 persons—23 experienced smokers and 16 pot-naïve subjects—tests requiring some degree of mind-body coordination.

All had ample opportunity to rehearse



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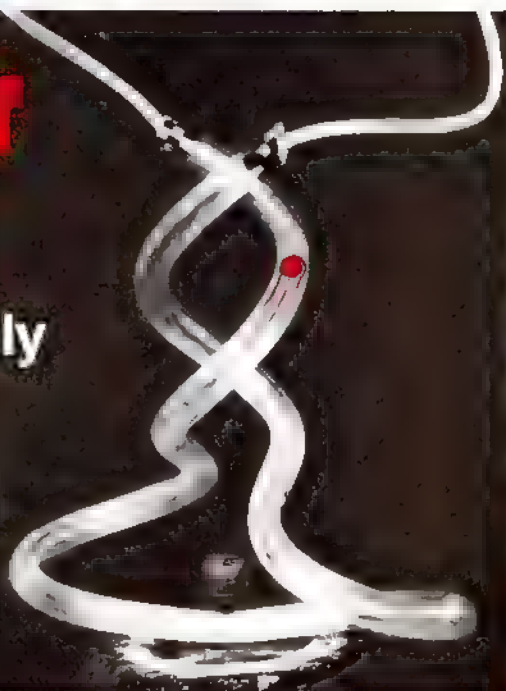
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the routines in both normal and high states of consciousness. In all cases, performance was impaired by marijuana in proportion to the amount smoked. The scientists used three standard psychological tests that simulate a variety of tedious jobs: sorting a large pack of cards, turning 80 blocks upside down one by one and keeping a stylus in contact with a small target mounted on a rotating disc.

The researchers expressed surprise at their results, which contradict an earlier study by Andrew Weil. In *The Natural Mind* (Houghton Mifflin, 1972), Weil states that marijuana smokers can learn to compensate for the herb's effects to do routine jobs with unimpaired efficiency.

## Pet Death Causes Heart Attack

A Long Beach, California, woman recently suffered a heart attack after attempting to quick-dry her poodle in a microwave oven after giving the pet a shampoo. She collapsed when she returned after 60 seconds to find that the animal had exploded. (The woman was later revived.)

## High Flyers Crash

Some studies of stoned people's driving abilities have shown little if any performance impairment, but recent research on high-flying pilots tells a different story. Psychiatrists used a flight simulator to test the abilities of ten pot-smoking flyers at the University of California School of Medicine at San Diego.

After smoking a small pipeful of grass, subjects average 2.9 major errors per simulated flight. After smoking a placebo, they made an average of 0.4 errors. Major errors were defined as those that would have taken the plane "out of its designated airspace with potentially dire consequences." Problems with short-term memory and time sense caused most of the errors.

## Lobotomy Cures Female Complaints

A Canadian psychosurgeon recently stated that female lobotomy patients make excellent housewives. Dr. Walter Freeman, who has a reputation as the "dean of lobotomy," explained that a majority of psychosurgery patients are women and the operation tends to be more successful on them. He says it's difficult for a man to support a family after a lobotomy, but "it is easy for a woman to do housework." ➤



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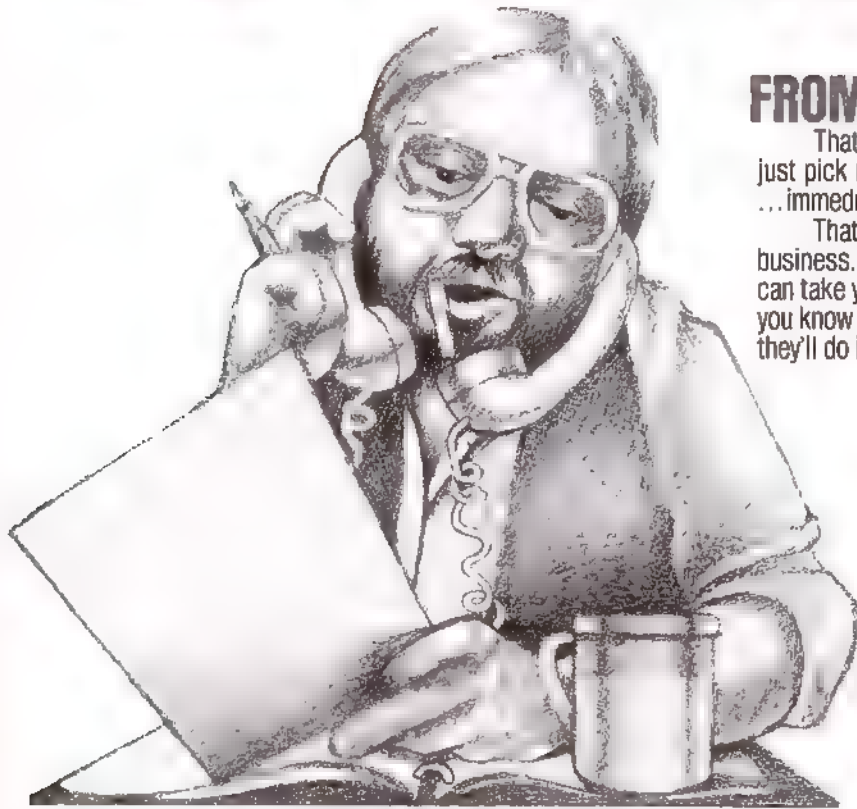
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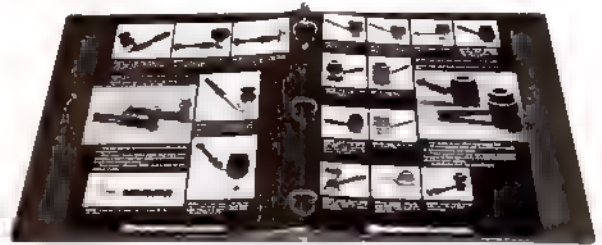
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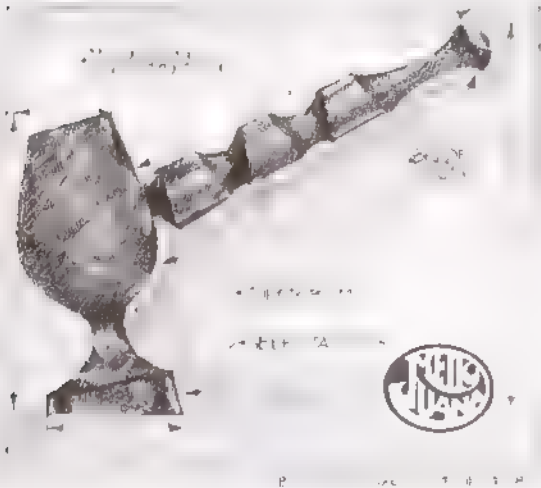
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## Supreme Court Curbs Protection from Illegal Search and Seizure

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that prisoners convicted in state courts after arrests that violated Fourth Amendment guarantees against illegal search and seizure can no longer gain an automatic hearing in federal courts to exclude the wrongfully obtained evidence and reverse the conviction. The decision overturns previous Supreme Court opinions during the Warren era. William Brennan, Jr. and Thurgood Marshall, holdovers from the pre-Nixon Court, bitterly protested the "continued evisceration of Fourth Amendment protections" represented by this and other decisions.

This right of appeal to federal courts, an extension of the habeas corpus doctrine, will still be available to state prisoners on a limited basis. However, the appellant will have to show to the federal court's satisfaction that the state appellate procedure was not "full and fair." The prisoner must also show that the evidence was illegally seized before a hearing is granted. Justice Lewis Powell, Jr., who wrote the majority opinion, argued that continued inquiry into the validity of a search and permitting convictions to be overturned would generate "disrespect for the law."

In related cases, the Court held that a drug search of the glove compartment of a locked car impounded for unrelated reasons was legal; the owner's subsequent marijuana conviction was upheld. The Nixon-Ford majority also decided that the U.S. Border Patrol—looking for illegal aliens—may legally stop and question motorists without a warrant or any reason for suspicion. Justices Brennan and Marshall dissented.

## Mail Checks Ruled Illegal

The U.S. Customs Service may no longer open mail from overseas to look for drugs without a search warrant, according to the Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. The ruling reversed the convictions of Charles W. Ramsey and James W. Kelly, recently sentenced to 10 to 30 years for allegedly smuggling \$1-million worth of drugs into the United States through the mails.

Two other circuit courts have held such searches to be legal, however. This judicial inconsistency will probably send the case to the Supreme Court. Many courts have allowed Customs agents to search anything else without warrants. In making an exception for mail, Judge Carl McGowan wrote, "Letters... implicate both our deepest privacy and our interest in free expression, far more than packages or suitcases or automobiles." McGowan also cited mail tampering by the CIA as a reason to uphold this Fourth Amendment protection of privacy.

The ruling will not stop inspection of mail for dope, however. The court suggested mail should be sniffed by dogs or x-rayed before getting a warrant to open suspicious packages. They recommended special magistrates be assigned to major post offices to review requests for warrants.

## DEA Sued for Pot by Blind Man

A Washington, D.C., glaucoma victim has filed a petition with the Drug Enforcement Administration to be allowed to use marijuana legally. Robert Randall, 28, is blind in one eye and has lost much of his sight in the other. Daily use of conventional medications failed to control his disease. Randall has prevented the condition from worsening since 1972 by smoking "about five joints a day, unless of course I don't have any." He has thereby managed to continue writing theater reviews and teaching speech at Prince George's Community College.

"The... medical evidence is that without marijuana, Mr. Randall is sure to go blind; with it, there is some chance that his sight can be saved," wrote John Karr, Randall's lawyer, in his brief to the DEA. This contention is backed by affidavits from Dr. Ben S. Fine, Randall's ophthalmologist, and Dr. Robert S. Hepler, the U.C.L.A. researcher who in 1972 confirmed pot's value in controlling glaucoma.

Randall faces charges in D.C. Superior Court for plants police allegedly found growing on his porch. At present, the only way he could legally be treated with marijuana is by being accepted in a government-approved research project. The only one now in existence is in Los Angeles, but Randall has not applied

because he does not want to "become a permanent research subject nor a ward of the state."

Under current law, the Food and Drug Administration must approve legal marijuana use and only as part of a research project; the controlled substance is then released to the experimenters by the DEA. DEA and FDA personnel are trying to find a doctor willing to let Randall smoke pot in his office as part of a federally approved experiment. Dr. Fine has reportedly refused because of the paperwork. Johns Hopkins Medical School has also declined to get involved. Even if a research protocol is approved by all parties, the DEA still must act to give Randall immunity from prosecution.

At present, Randall plans to continue his suit based on Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process and using government-sponsored research proving marijuana's therapeutic value. "All I'm asking," he stated, "is a simple prescription, monitored and validated by a doctor, under the same criteria applied to other medications."

## British Court Finds Magic Fungi Legal

Even though they contain an illegal drug, *Psilocybe* mushrooms are legal in Great Britain, held the Reading Crown Court in the case of *Garland v. Wilkinson*. Judge Blomefield reasoned, "Psilocin is a chemical; these mushrooms are mushrooms."

## Incidental Drug Busts Okayed in New York

Police have long been allowed to do things in an emergency that would be constitutionally prohibited under normal circumstances. Now if police find drugs on an emergency search made for an unrelated reason, the dope can be used as evidence even though it was found without a search warrant. For example, they can search a hotel or house without a warrant if they believe a burglar or murderer is loose on the premises. The New York Court of Appeals recently wrote the first guidelines for these emergency actions: (1) Police must have reasonable grounds to believe there is an immediate need for their assistance to protect life or property; (2) The search



must not be primarily motivated by intent to arrest or seize evidence; and (3) There must be some reason to associate the emergency with the area or place to be searched

## Judge Asks Appeals Court to Void His Own Decision

A Florida paraphernalia distributor was busted for marijuana possession after police "checking for burglaries" reportedly spotted two pot plants on his terrace. A search of the apartment turned up 10 grams of herb. Mark Gilbert, owner of Bong City, a Miami headshop, pleaded no contest to the possession charge, but his lawyer argued the case on grounds of invasion of privacy and the right of a citizen to be left alone in his own home.

After a month of testimony, Judge Joseph Durant of the 11th Judicial District upheld Gilbert's conviction. Nevertheless, he recommended appeal and hoped the Florida Supreme Court would have the "courage and conviction" to reverse his own decision. The judge added that he would rather have his son smoke pot than drink alcohol.

## California Sets Double Search Standards

The supreme court of California has created two distinct sets of criteria for considering whether a search for drugs is valid. In *Wimberly v. Superior Court* the judges distinguished between the probable cause needed to search a car when police think the occupants are marijuana users as opposed to dealers transporting the drug for sale.

The case arose when two highway patrolmen stopped an auto that they observed swerving and speeding at 2:30 A.M. Shining a flashlight into the car, one of the cops saw "a jacket, a paper bag, a water jug and a smoking pipe on the floor." Spotting a number of seeds, the officer asked to see the pipe; he later testified it smelled like burned marijuana. A search revealed a small amount of grass in a pocket of the jacket. The police then opened the trunk and found several pounds of pot and hash.

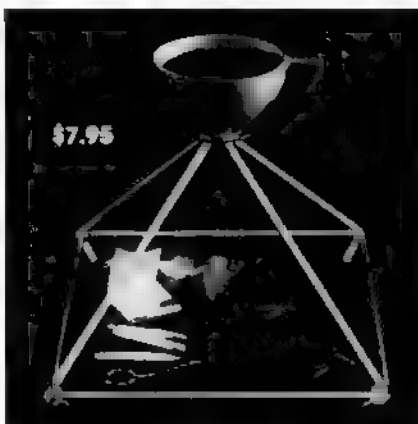
The court ruled the search of the car's passenger area was legal, because the pipe and seeds provided probable cause. In suppressing the evidence found in the trunk, however, the judges held, "discovery of a quantity of marijuana indicative only of personal use in the interior of the car does not provide probable cause to believe that more marijuana will be found in the trunk." ■

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## R. Gordon Wasson



R. Gordon Wasson is a remarkable man. His father was a tough-minded minister, an outspoken anti-Prohibitionist who wrote a book, *Religion and Drink*, that refuted religious arguments for illegalizing alcohol. He raised his son to be meticulous and above all else to respect learning. Gordon Wasson attended the School of Journalism at Columbia University. He worked as a financial reporter on the *New York Herald Tribune*, then became a banker, and quickly rose to a vice-presidency of J. P. Morgan and Co.

Wasson made his debut into the scholarly world in 1957, when he and his wife, Valentina Pavlovna, published *Mushrooms, Russia & History*. This lavish, limited edition presented the Wassons' sensational theories on the role of mushrooms in cultural history, a study they

called ethnomycology. It contained preliminary observations on the Mexican mushroom cults, which the Wassons first penetrated. Gordon Wasson was the first outsider to ingest the sacred mushrooms of Mexico; he later collaborated with Roger Heim and Albert Hofmann, who delineated the taxonomy and chemistry of the magic mushrooms.

After ten years of study in Mexico, Wasson moved to the Orient, where he studied ethnomycology for several years. The fruit of his labors was a brilliant book, *Soma: Divine Mushroom of Immortality*, in which he identified the divine Soma plant of ancient Indian literature as a hallucinogenic mushroom. The book further advanced arguments first presented in *Mushrooms, Russia & History*. Wasson has earned world-

wide acclaim for *Soma*, for it is a scholarly tour de force, a brilliant work, the implications of which have only begun to be explored.

In 1974, Wasson published *Maria Sabina and Her Mazatec Mushroom Velada*, a complete translation and dissection of a mushroom-curing ceremony that he had recorded in Mexico in 1958. He has in addition published numerous papers in scholarly journals. He now lives in New England, where he is energetically working on his next book.

Jonathan Ott is a psychomycologist currently engaged in chemical research on hallucinogenic mushrooms. His first book, *Hallucinogenic Plants of North America*, will appear this spring. Steven H. Pollock is a physician preoccupied with psychomycological research.

**High Times:** How did your interest in mushrooms begin?

**Wasson:** In 1927, and all at once. I was married at the end of 1926, and in August 1927 my wife, Valentina Pavlovna, and I had our first real honeymoon. We were invited to a chalet in the Catskill Mountains. She was Russian-born. I was an Anglo-Saxon born in Montana; and

though we had known each other for five or six years, we had never mentioned mushrooms.

We were out walking hand in hand down a forest path when Valentina Pavlovna suddenly saw in the forest a host of mushrooms of different kinds. She rejected my hand and, full of delight, ran into the forest and knelt before them

in an act of apparent adoration. She spread her arms and was overcome with joy on seeing the same kinds of mushrooms again in the United States that she had left in Russia.

I was rather put out by this interruption and I called to her, "Come back, come back, don't gather those toadstools. They're poisonous! They're putrid!" She



just laughed and proceeded to gather various mushrooms of different species. She carried them back to the chalet and introduced them into our evening fare. She put some mushrooms into the meat, others she added to the soup. Each one according to its nature, each according to its kind.

**High Times:** Did you eat any of the mushrooms?

**Wasson:** I did not eat the mushrooms. I'm ashamed to say I was in such a bad humor that I didn't eat a thing that night that she put mushrooms in. I nearly reached the point where I said I would wake up in the morning a widower. However, that's how I became interested in mushrooms.

To most, a difference in attitude toward mushrooms, toward the fungal life of the forest, would seem wholly unimportant. But we decided that we should check our acquaintances—she with fellow Russians and I with Anglo-Saxons. Over the following weeks we found that all the Great Russians—those who come down from the forest belt of northern Russia—knew their mushrooms from their mother's knee. They didn't have any identification manuals, but at the age of six my bride had been sent out by her mother to gather mushrooms for the family table.

The Russians had learned couplets, each one dedicated to a particular species, all of them making up a poem called *Voina Gribov*, or the "war of the mushrooms." Anglo-Saxons, on the other hand, said that they felt as I did, that mushrooms were only to be stepped on and crushed under the heel.

**High Times:** When did you start doing academic research on this difference in attitude?

**Wasson:** We started slowly. I was a newspaperman on the *Herald Tribune* at that time, and we were so busy earning a living that we had little time for study. We gathered information gradually, painstakingly, reading what other people had written on mushrooms. We wrote letters asking people who would know to inform us about the details of the antipathy and the addiction to mushrooms. We found, generally speaking, that the Russians and the Anglo-Saxons represent the poles of difference.

We gathered information from the Russian- and English-language dictionaries, and we looked for the etymology of mushroom words. The words frequently conceal latent metaphors which have died out in everybody's recollection, like *toadstool*—we spent much time inquiring into the origin of the word *toadstool*, with interesting results. There were only three basic words in the English mushroom vocabulary: *mushroom*, *toadstool*—no one can eat a toadstool—and *fungus*, which is a semilearned word. Only three words. In Russian the words are innumerable; we've never exhausted the field. And they're all so expressive!

In English literature, there's not a favorable word said about a mushroom in any widely known work until about the year 1900, when the cultivated mushroom was introduced into England and the United States.

**High Times:** When did this philological study finally take the shape of "ethnomycology"?

**Wasson:** In the 1930s, we began to concern ourselves seriously with what was to become an exact science, but we didn't think of a book in ethnomycology until about 1940. *Ethnomycology* was a word that I devised after the analogy of *ethnobotany*, or the study of the role of plants in human life. *Mycology* is a section of botany, so naturally *ethnomycology* is that section of mycology which concerns itself with the cultural role of mushrooms.

**High Times:** Did your ethnomycological inquiries extend beyond the Russians and the Anglo-Saxons?

---

**"We began to  
see visions.  
They were in color;  
kaleidoscopic;  
in my case, angular,  
and they would go fast  
or slow in response  
to my wishes."**

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**Wasson:** Yes, we looked into the attitudes of other cultural branches of the Indo-European peoples settled in Europe, as well as of the Basques, who are a maverick element in the European cultural spectrum. Everyone was either mycophile or mycophobe—mushroom-lover or mushroom-hater. In eastern Europe, the Slavs are mycophiles; in the west, only the Catalonians, around Barcelona in eastern Spain, and the people of Provence, in the Languedoc area of France, know their mushrooms from the ground up, like the Russians, while the northern French are much less mycophilic.

**High Times:** In *Mushrooms, Russia & History*, you say you had what you called a "wild surmise" that there was a mushroom cult underlying the history of European religions. When did that idea take shape and on what evidence was it based?

**Wasson:** Toward the early 1940s, we sat down and asked ourselves what to do with all the material we'd gathered. At that time, we dared to pronounce to each other the thought that had occurred inde-

pendently to both of us: that this cultural chasm, this opposite attitude toward mushrooms had some religious basis.

**High Times:** What sort of religious basis?

**Wasson:** If millennia ago our remote ancestors worshipped a mushroom, that mushroom must have evoked powerful emotions—awe, adoration, yes, fear and even terror. In those days religion was a serious thing, not as we know religion today: human sacrifice to the gods was probably characteristic of the times. But when my wife and I exchanged our thoughts, we had no idea, we could not imagine how mushrooms would have figured in the religion of Early Man. We did figure that that early religion had long since been abandoned, but though the religion had died out there might well have survived from it an emotional residue, a residue that would be reflected here by mycophobia, there by mycophilia, the remote descendants of mycolatry.

**High Times:** You're suggesting that there was some common origin to our religious beliefs, and that that origin had something to do with mushrooms?

**Wasson:** That's right. Long before mankind had our current beliefs, there could well have been some religious use of mushrooms. We found most interesting things in the European field, but we decided that the answer was not to be found there. In our studies, we crossed the Ural Mountains into Asian Russia and discovered that the Vogul and Ostyak peoples in the valley of the river Ob possessed shamanic cultures and that the shamans relied on *Amanita muscaria* as the center of their religious lives.

Shamans and their apprentices both ingested *A. muscaria*, but there was a taboo linked with its general use.

**High Times:** When you unearthed the shamanic mushroom use by the people of the Ob River Valley, you must have felt as if you had reached the goal of your search at last.

**Wasson:** Yes. *A. muscaria* became the focus of our attention. We soon found that all the Paleosiberians and the Uralic peoples used this mushroom in their religion. Its use was already rapidly disintegrating and becoming a plaything for the laity. In the Kamchadal and Koryak areas, everybody was getting "drunk" on *A. muscaria* South of the forest belt, however, in the arid savannah belt of the south, and in India, there was perhaps no use of inebriating mushrooms at that remote time.

**High Times:** Is mushroom use in Siberia analogous to the use of alcohol in Western cultures?

**Wasson:** In eastern Siberia, where the mushroom worship is weaker and has become diluted by the Russian immigration, *A. muscaria* is now used as an intoxicant, just a common, ordinary intoxicant like vodka. Yet it's quite clear



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they had the mushroom as an inebriant before alcohol reached them.

**High Times:** How is the mushroom experience described in Siberia?

**Wasson:** The Uralic peoples use the word *bemushroom* in their language. They say "Oh, that man is bemushroomed!" Even if they see a Russian who is drunk on vodka, they point to him and say: "He's bemushroomed!"

**High Times:** Are there any peculiar associations attending the recreational use of *A. muscaria* in any of the Siberian areas?

**Wasson:** Well, reindeer are fond of *A. muscaria* and eat it voraciously. Human beings may have learned to try the mushrooms first by observing the reindeer.

**High Times:** I understand reindeer are also passionately fond of urine

**Wasson:** That's right. I don't know if they're seeking the salt in the urine, but they are fond of human urine, especially.

**High Times:** What were the observed practices of urine ingestion in Siberia?

**Wasson:** Mushroom cultists would ingest the urine of a man who had eaten the *A. muscaria* and thereby attain the inebriation that results from ingesting the mushroom itself. However, this was in eastern Siberia, where the mushroom religion had degenerated.

In the valley of the Ob, on the other hand, no one but the shaman or his apprentice could take the mushroom with impunity. A taboo said that all others would surely die. Of course, they wouldn't die; I have yet to find a well-authenticated case where anyone has died from ingesting the European *A. muscaria*.

**High Times:** Where does *A. muscaria* grow in Siberia?

**Wasson:** Only in the forest belt—it needs trees. *A. muscaria* grows in a symbiotic relationship with many species of trees, of which the birch is its favorite; it grows in abundance around the foot of birches. It is significant that birch trees were held in special reverence by Siberian natives, who would plant them in places where they wished to worship. *A. muscaria* was called the "fruit" of the birch.

**High Times:** Did reports of *A. muscaria*'s great powers go before it, making it a cherished item?

**Wasson:** The reputation of the fruit of the forest passed by word of mouth to the south and was, I think, responsible for a large part of the folklore of the people south of the Eurasian mountain zone. I have gone so far as to suggest in various writings that the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was the birch, and the fruit of the Tree of Life was *A. muscaria*. Of course, an apple was not the fruit: all scholars agree that the apple did not exist in the Near East.

Moreover, the fruit of the Tree of Life is associated with a serpent, and in Asia the serpent is regarded as the spirit of the tree

that grows *A. muscaria* around its base. In the countries where the serpent plays no great role, such as England, the fruit of the Tree of Life is associated with the serpent's distant kin, the toad—hence, the toadstool.

**High Times:** When were you first informed about the possibility of an active cult devoted to the ingestion of hallucinogenic mushrooms in Mexico?

**Wasson:** On September 19, 1952, we received two letters. One was from the distinguished English poet Robert Graves, who was living in Majorca, Spain. He called our attention to an article by Richard Evans Schultes that had appeared in *American Anthropologist*. Schultes had summarized the evidence for a mushroom cult in Mexico and recounted the search for the mushroom that was its focus.

In the same mail, we received a drawing of a stone carving a friend happened to see in the collection of the Rietberg Museum in Zurich. It looked astonishingly like a mushroom.

**High Times:** An idol from Mexico?

**Wasson:** We didn't know whether it was an idol. I took the drawing to Gordon Eckholm of the American Museum of

**"I think that all the religions of Eurasia and the New World sprang out of cults that employed natural plant products as a mighty medium for reaching a state of ecstasy."**

Natural History, who did not think that it represented a mushroom cult. He told us to write to Robert J. Weitlaner and Blas Pablo Reko, anthropologist and ethnobotanist respectively, who were working in Mexico.

**High Times:** At this time, had you enlisted the aid of a professional mycologist yet?

**Wasson:** Certainly. In 1949 we had met Roger Heim, a Frenchman, the leading mycologist of his time. He was most gracious and interested beyond belief in ethnomycology. When we hit the Mexican trail of sacred mushrooms, he was eager to obtain specimens of the fungi and identify them.

**High Times:** Did you begin to study Mexican history?

**Wasson:** Oh, yes, the entire winter of 1952/53 we studied the Mexican chronicles of the sixteenth-century friars to be conversant with everything they had said about sacred mushroom use.

**High Times:** Did you want to try the sacred mushrooms yourselves?

**Wasson:** There was never the slightest hesitancy. We were eager to take the mushrooms, with the Indians!

**High Times:** How did your Mexican contacts help this come about?

**Wasson:** During our correspondence with Robert Weitlaner and Blas Pablo Reko, I invited Weitlaner to accompany us on a field trip in the summer of 1953. Blas Pablo Reko suggested that we get in touch with Eunice V. Pike in Huautla de Jiménez.

**High Times:** Wasn't Huautla where Schultes obtained the specimens that prompted him to publish his paper on Mexican mushroom cults?

**Wasson:** Exactly right; and Blas Pablo Reko had accompanied Dick Schultes to Huautla. Anyway, Weitlaner did consent to accompany us to Huautla and taught us how to handle ourselves in the Indian country, how to win their confidence.

**High Times:** When did you first observe the ritual use of mushrooms in Mexico?

**Wasson:** In 1953 we observed one gathering which would not be called a shamanic performance—it was a divinatory rite that involved casting 39 grains of maize, or corn. According as to how they fell, the wiseman would read what they meant and answer our questions. He took the mushrooms to reinforce the divinatory power of the corn.

**High Times:** When did you ingest the sacred mushrooms for the first time?

**Wasson:** Two years later, when we returned to Huautla. It was on June 29, 1955. We had tried desperately on our first and second visits to Mexico and in the early part of our 1955 visit to get a good curandera to perform a singing rite for us, but had no success; the Indians didn't wish to perform for non-believers—it would be a sacrilege.

**High Times:** How did you go about breaking the ice?

**Wasson:** We made the acquaintance of an official in Huautla, Cayetano García, and asked him if he could help us. We engaged him in conversation about how the maize crop was doing and about the miserably low prices of coffee, when I leaned across the table in the town hall and asked him, "May I take you into my confidence?" He bent forward with all the curiosity that an Indian would have when asked to be taken into the confidence of a stranger to the town, and said, "Yes."

Then came my next question: "Would you let me into the secret of the *nti-shi-tho*?" this being the name of all the species of the hallucinogenic mushrooms. He was surprised that I knew the word for the mushrooms in Mazatec, and said, "Nothing can be easier." That sounded so wonderful, I didn't believe it! He said to come around to his house at the hour of siesta. That was an invitation not to be lost! I hastened back to Allan Richardson, my companion and photographer.

**High Times:** Your wife wasn't with you on this expedition?

**Wasson:** No. She was due to come the



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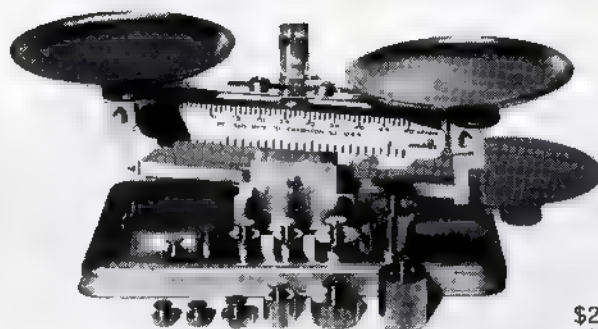
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following Friday with my daughter Masha. Allan was a society photographer in New York who had accompanied me to photograph a mushroom ceremony

When we turned up at Cayetano's house, he was reclining in his hammock. He asked his younger brother Emilio to take us down into the ravine by the side of his house. There we found clusters of a kind of mushroom with which I was unfamiliar. We photographed them to our hearts' content, gathered them and put them in a big pasteboard box that Emilio had brought with him. Cayetano warned us that if we saw any dead body along the way, any dog or animal, the mushrooms would promptly lose their virtue and we would have to start over again.

**High Times:** You later found out that these were called *derrumbes*, or landslide mushrooms?

**Wasson:** Yes, *Psilocybe caerulescens*, variety *Mazatecorum*. The Mazatecs call this species *kee-sho*.

**High Times:** Are these the most desirable mushrooms?

**Wasson:** Well, opinions differ among the Indians as to which is the most desirable, and in each part of Mexico you'll find one species is esteemed above the others

**High Times:** Can you recall your experiences later that day, after collecting the mushrooms?

**Wasson:** Cayetano directed us to a house much higher in the mountain pass than his. There lived Maria Sabina, a *curandera*. "Go and visit her, and ask whether she will perform for you tonight," he said. Well, this was the big achievement I had been looking for! I was on the brink of a discovery!

We found Maria Sabina at the house of her daughter, Maria Apolonia. The two women went into ecstasies of delight upon seeing the mushrooms. Their reaction recalled to me the ecstasy of my wife, Valentina Pavlovna, in 1927 in the Catskill Mountains. With Emilio as my interpreter, I quickly came to the point and said: "Will you serve us this night?" Maria Sabina looked me square in the eye and said "I will. Be in Cayetano's house after dark."

**High Times:** What happened that night at the house of Cayetano García?

**Wasson:** We arrived at Cayetano's after dark, at about 9:30. The house was built against the mountainside, with one room on the ground floor and a trap door leading down to two rooms carved into the side of the mountain. In one of these lower rooms the events took place. There was an altar with the image of Santo Niño de Atocha and the baptism in Jordan. There were mats on the floor. Maria Sabina arrived about 10:30 with her daughter. It was quite clear that this was an unusual event for them, having two strangers to Huautla attending a shamanic performance. Everyone had on their best clothes

Shortly after 11:00, the daughter of the household brought around to us gourds of chocolate drink, hot. I turned to Allan at that time and said: "This is it, we're in for it for better or worse!" I remembered that Sahagun, a friar of the sixteenth century, had written that before the performance begins they serve you chocolate to drink.

**High Times:** Did the performance begin immediately after the chocolate was passed around?

**Wasson:** The proceedings started slowly. First, Maria Sabina incensed the mushrooms with a resin called *copal*. Candles were lighted in the room. Then she apportioned the mushrooms in heaps and took 13 pair—the Mazatecs always speak of the divine mushrooms by pairs and in Central America, 13 is a lucky number. This dates from before the conquest

**High Times:** How many mushrooms did you eat?

**Wasson:** Maria Sabina offered us each six pair. We were apportioned our shares according to our size. A big person is offered more than a small person. We ate the mushrooms entirely, chewing them thoroughly.

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## **"The fruit of the Tree of Life was Amanita muscaria.**

## **All scholars agree that the apple did not exist in the Near East."**

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When Maria Sabina began to feel the mushrooms taking effect on her she inverted a flower that was on the altar table over the last candle and quenched the flame.

**High Times:** You were in total darkness?

**Wasson:** There was a transom above the door through which a little moonlight came in. We were in darkness for some time; then I heard an intermittent humming that broke into isolated syllables... "si-si-si-so-so-so" and after a time, these syllables formed themselves into words. What Maria said we do not know, as she knew no Spanish. She gradually began to chant, and the chanting continued all night. In the adjoining room there was a place where they ushered us so the necessities of nature could be performed and where, if we felt nauseated, we could vomit. Allan vomited three times that night, and I twice, but these were trivial episodes

**High Times:** Was there any prohibition against leaving the house during the ceremony?

**Wasson:** Yes, the house was closed and the barriers were put up over the doors. We were told that no one should leave

until the cock crowed. We just waited and nothing happened. Sometime later, after we had both vomited, Allan whispered into my ear, "Gordon, I'm seeing things!" And I said, "That's all right, so am I!"

He was extremely nervous. He had taken pictures up to the moment when the last candle was extinguished, but from then on he was asked not to take any pictures *mientras que la fuerza le agarrara* ("while under the influence of the power"). Emilio said, Anyway, we then began to see visions. They were in color; they were kaleidoscopic; in my case they were angular and they would go fast or slow, responding to my wishes.

**High Times:** Did euphoric feelings accompany these visions?

**Wasson:** I had delightful feelings; I suppose that's euphoria, peaceful feelings.

**High Times:** Did you ever have the feeling that you left that shack in your visions?

**Wasson:** Oh, later in the night, of course.

**High Times:** Having felt previously that you were on the brink of a great discovery, were you in any way disappointed by the experience?

**Wasson:** The anticipated discovery was far exceeded by the experience.

**High Times:** How long did the effects last and what happened later?

**Wasson:** The effects lasted about four and a half hours. Then imperceptibly we all, including Maria Sabina and Maria Apolonia, fell asleep on the ground. We awoke two hours later, between 5:30 and 6:00 A.M., without any fatigue and overwhelmed by this experience.

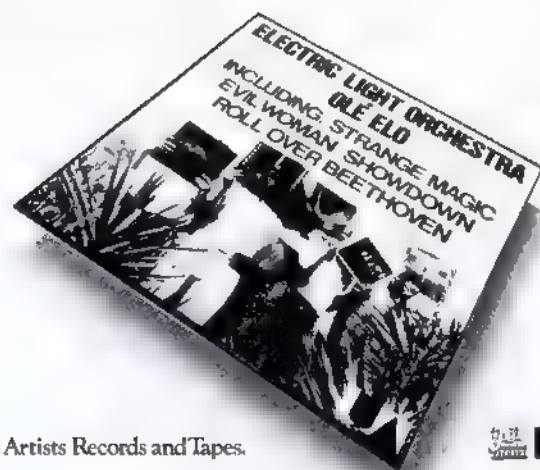
We asked Maria Sabina how much we owed her for her services, and she said 13 pesos, about \$1.60. We paid her about 50 pesos, a substantial bonus. She was immensely pleased. Then we turned to our host and hostess and asked what we should pay. Cayetano's wife said, "No *hicimos esto por dinero*" ("we did not do this for money"). She would take nothing. They were not mercenary.

**High Times:** Do you have any comments on the influence of set and setting and how shamans manipulate this in the ceremony?

**Wasson:** Yes. You must be eager to take the mushrooms. I wish to warn everyone right now that if you have the slightest hesitation, the slightest timidity about the mushrooms, don't take them at all! It is a disservice to you because you will have an unpleasant experience, and it desecrates the mushrooms. As for the setting, in every part of Mesoamerica, the shaman lives apart from the rest of the village. This assures that there will be no interruptions from the villagers. When they take the mushrooms, many villagers will go to the shaman's house or to some other *rancheria* that is empty; and the service will be given there, where quiet will reign, where you may hear only the



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cock crow at dawn, and that signals the end of the performance.

**High Times:** Have you been associated with any of the other pioneers into psychoactives?

**Wasson:** No, I am a loner. In this kind of thing you never know what you will get into if you are associated with someone else. These things are delicate, and I've always wished just to plow my own furrow.

**High Times:** Weren't you involved with Timothy Leary's International Federation for Internal Freedom?

**Wasson:** He wished me join it and to be on the board of directors. I respectfully declined, and it seems to me that I am vindicated in the policy that I followed.

**High Times:** Did you object to the work he was doing?

**Wasson:** Timothy Leary, I respected; his judgment, I did not respect. I thought that if he came to a fork in the road, he would usually choose the wrong way.

**High Times:** What do you think about Leary's incarceration?

**Wasson:** It is a barbarity, a disgrace to the American people! That they should throw him in jail for possessing marijuana. I don't care if he did escape from the jail, he was entitled to his freedom!

**High Times:** What contact did you have with Aldous Huxley, and what do you think of his work?

**Wasson:** Huxley would come to see me from time to time in New York. He was a gentle, sweet and learned man for whom I had the highest esteem. In his novel *Island*, there's a drug called *moksha*, which he patterned after our hallucinogenic mushrooms of Mexico.

**High Times:** Huxley's *Brave New World* dealt with a drug that he chose to call Soma. Soma was destined to play a great role in your life. When did you first hear about the original Soma of India?

**Wasson:** Long before Huxley wrote about it. The hymns of India are called the *Rig Veda*, and one book of the *Rig Veda* is entirely devoted to Soma. This is called the Ninth Mandala, and it is filled with hymns to Soma, a plant. My father had learned about Soma while studying Sanskrit at Columbia University in the 1880s. He told my brother and me about the Soma plant in about 1907.

**High Times:** What did he tell you?

**Wasson:** He said that in this eastern language, Sanskrit—a plant figured that was worshipped, adored as a god, to which hymns were sung! It seemed to have put the Brahmans into ecstasy. But with passing time, the identity of that plant was lost. That little fact lodged itself in my brain, and I never forgot it.

**High Times:** When did you first start to conceive of the way you might solve the identity of Soma?

**Wasson:** I resolved that I should go to India to see what I could learn there about hallucinogens—I could not forget

what my father had told me about the hymns of the *Rig Veda* and Soma. In 1960 or 1961, I was introduced to Wendy Doniger, a graduate student who consented to help me trace the history of Soma. She is really the coauthor of *Soma*.

**High Times:** Didn't she make some translations of passages in the *Rig Veda* that indicated that the practice of using Soma involved urine ingestion?

**Wasson:** Yes, we found a passage in the 74th hymn of the Ninth Mandala that indicates the drinking of urine. All the translations had avoided that interpretation. I immediately thought of the Siberian use of *A. muscaria*.

**High Times:** So you retired from your vice-presidency of the Morgan Bank and set off for India?

**Wasson:** Yes, on June 30, 1963, I retired from the bank, and the same night, I flew to Los Angeles to board a freighter for the Far East, where I stayed for most of five or six years.

**High Times:** Your studies led you to propose the theory that Soma was in fact the Siberian *A. muscaria*?

**Wasson:** Yes. I turned to Louis Renou's translation of many of the hymns of the *Rig Veda*, including all of Book Nine. I also studied all of Renou's notes and the notes of other scholars. The deeper I went into it, the more perfectly the interpretation that Soma was a mushroom fit.

---

### **"In eastern Siberia, the mushroom is used as an intoxicant, just like vodka."**

---

**High Times:** Was your conviction based on the Vedic descriptions of its physical appearance?

**Wasson:** The Brahmans were exceedingly sparing in their descriptions of the physical appearance. But everything seemed to fit together. There was one common denominator.

**High Times:** Was the passage about urine ingestion the significant clue? I believe it was translated "the swollen men piss the flowing Soma."

**Wasson:** Right. Wendy Doniger translated that.

**High Times:** And this harkens back to the Siberian practice, does it not?

**Wasson:** Yes, that's right. The practice in India was limited at first to the Brahmans of the Aryans, a people who came down from the north and spoke an Indo-European language. Some of the Aryans stayed in Iran; *Iranian* is a word that is parallel with Aryan. The other Aryans went into what is now Pakistan and Kashmir. I imagine they brought from the north the practice of utilizing *A. muscaria* in their religion. They revered it. The small, yellow plant—it was *hari*, which in the Sanskrit spectrum runs all

the way from red to the beginning of green—was compared with the sun, with fire.

**High Times:** Conspicuously absent in the Vedas were any descriptions of leaves, roots, flowers, bark or seeds, true?

**Wasson:** Right, completely absent. But there was the description of the stalk, and the fact that it was fleshy and juicy.

**High Times:** In *Soma: Divine Mushroom of Immortality*, you advanced the theory that the Siberian use of *A. muscaria* in shamanism was fundamental to other religions, not just the Indian religion through Soma. Would you care to expand on this?

**Wasson:** My surmise is that all the religions of Eurasia, and of the New World as well, sprang out of cults that employed natural plant products to arrive at a mystical end. These plants were a mighty medium for reaching a state of ecstasy. They are still used in Mexico, but the world seems to have passed them by.

**High Times:** Do you think the mushroom use in Mexico is related to the mushroom use in Siberia?

**Wasson:** There are reasons to think that it is. It's an hypothesis. The singing shaman cult is the same across translingual barriers in different sections of Mesoamerica. In fact, it is still the same as in the seventeenth-century records of Ruiz de Alarcon. Triangulating back through the millennia, we arrive at an ancient origin that is fantastic!

I don't wish to say so dogmatically, but I think it probably comes from Siberia. There are some parallels that are striking. In every cult, the mushroom speaks; it isn't the shaman who is singing, it's the mushroom. Maria Sabina says, "The mushroom says, the mushroom says, the mushroom says." It's the mushroom speaking through the shaman in Mexico, and in Siberia we find the same practice. In both Mexico and Siberia, the mushrooms are called little people, children, little girls, little boys.

**High Times:** How does such folklore relate to Christian beliefs like the virgin birth?

**Wasson:** I see parallels. For example, it is supposed by the shaman and his flock that the mushroom is born miraculously by the union of the lightning bolt and the soft Mother Earth—a miraculous conception. The mushroom is a virgin, born without the intervention of sex, unlike the plant world. It has no seed, it has no root: it grows miraculously. I am inclined to think that the virgin birth had its inception in these beliefs of a mushroom cult, but I can't be sure, of course.

**High Times:** Can you describe the effects of the hallucinogenic morning glories that you also studied in Mexico?

**Wasson:** The effects were almost identical to the mushrooms.

**High Times:** How large a dose of morn-  
(continued on page 48)



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**2. Is Lettuce "Opium" really opium?** No. Our product has no connection whatsoever with real poppy opium which is both harmful and illegal.

**3. How do you use Lettuce "Opium"?** We manufacture our unique product expressly for smoking purposes. It can be smoked alone or blended with your favorite herb. It has a pleasant taste and a sweet mystical aroma which makes smoking it a pleasure rather than a chore. It should be smoked in a pipe, but it can be crushed, mixed with any herb and rolled into joints for added pleasure. We recommend that you smoke it alone to enjoy its fullest effects.

**4. Is Lettuce "Opium" harmful?** Our cat accidentally ate a few grams of our Lettuce "Opium," crashed, and woke up five hours later with no visible side effects. In fact, he likes it as much as we do. Besides, have you ever heard of a lettuce addict?

**5. Is it really legal?** Of course it's legal. In order for this product to become illegal, all salads in America containing lettuce would have to be banned (not to mention the fact that all those involved in lettuce production would be out of jobs). By smoking our product, you will be doing your small part to bolster the economic status of those involved in lettuce production.

**6. What are the effects and how much should you smoke?** We believe that any substance is habit forming in direct proportion to the amount of pleasure associated with its use. Be sensible and know your own limits.

Below are excerpts from an article by Bob Rosen, a writer for "The Villager" of New York City. Mr. Rosen was, in effect, conducting a consumer fraud investigation aimed at objectively testing the various claims made by manufacturers of legal highs. Mr. Rosen received no special treatment from the companies he contacted, as he did not disclose the fact that he was a writer. Please read what he has to say because it will have a considerable impact on you, the consumer. We regret that we cannot print Mr. Rosen's article in its entirety, however, should you want a copy of his most informative article, send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will gladly forward a copy to you.



In celebration of the Bicentennial, I swindled my editor out of \$15 under the pretense of doing a "consumer fraud" story and mailed away for "legal drugs."

For the past eight weeks I have been smoking, drinking, chewing, swallowing and gagging on my legal stash. I have ingested one ounce of Kava Kava Root, three-quarters of an ounce of Yohimbe Bark, one tablespoon of Gotu Kola, one tablespoon of Chia Seeds, one-quarter teaspoon of Lila Nut Powder, three bols of "Special Smoking Blend," uncountable joints of American Indian Smoking Herbs, several joints of "Aphrodisia Smoking Blend," and one gram of Lettuce Opium. The Lettuce Opium is the only substance that had any noticeable effect on me.

On the morning of January 19, a plain white envelope appeared in my mailbox. It contained one gram of Lettuce Opium. Bill Olmsted of

Natural Enterprises in Gaithersburg, Maryland manufactures and sells the stuff for \$4 per gram.

To prepare for my first opium experience, I read Thomas DeQuincey's *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*. I wanted to know what was in store for me.

I was ready.

January 20, 1 A.M.: I put a small chunk of the sticky black stuff into my pipe.

I want to push this to the limit.

It takes two matches just to dry out the opium. On the third, it catches and gives off a pleasantly sweet odor. I consume the chunk, then smoke two more.

Nothing.

The phone rings. It's a friend. "Opium?" she says.

"That's right."

"It should be just like heroin."

"I can dig it," I say and begin to laugh.

"You're laughing too much," she tells me. "I can't communicate with you."

She has a point. I hang up the phone and look at the clock. I expect it to be about 1:45 a.m. It is 1:10. Something is happening. I flip on the television and smoke more opium. I can't stop laughing and smoke opium straight through to two o'clock.

I have consumed one-half gram and cannot go on. My tongue feels as though it is vibrating.

I get the urge to walk my dog but can't get the beast on its leash. All my coordination has vanished. I whistle, and he follows. It's very cold out. I can feel the opium coming on strong. My mind drifts. I think of thermonuclear warfare, old age and death. It soon passes.

Have I unearthed something new? Am I in the vanguard of a drug craze that will soon sweep the country, corrupt youth and like LSD finally be outlawed by the government? Possibly. But looking at this objectively, the Lettuce Opium is not "real" opium. I'm sure it was not "like heroin." I did not have the hallucinations of DeQuincey.

Then things take a turn for the worst. I brace myself, and for the next four days quaff the vile potions and smoke myself blind with the Special Blend. Nothing happens. The Chia Seeds bring me closer to vomiting than anything else.

It is over. I have reached the light at the end of the tunnel.

Still, there is a positive side to my ordeal. The Lettuce Opium *did* work, and I am pleased to report the constant abuse of these "extremely dangerous drugs" has not rendered me dead, diseased or impotent.

by Bob Rosen

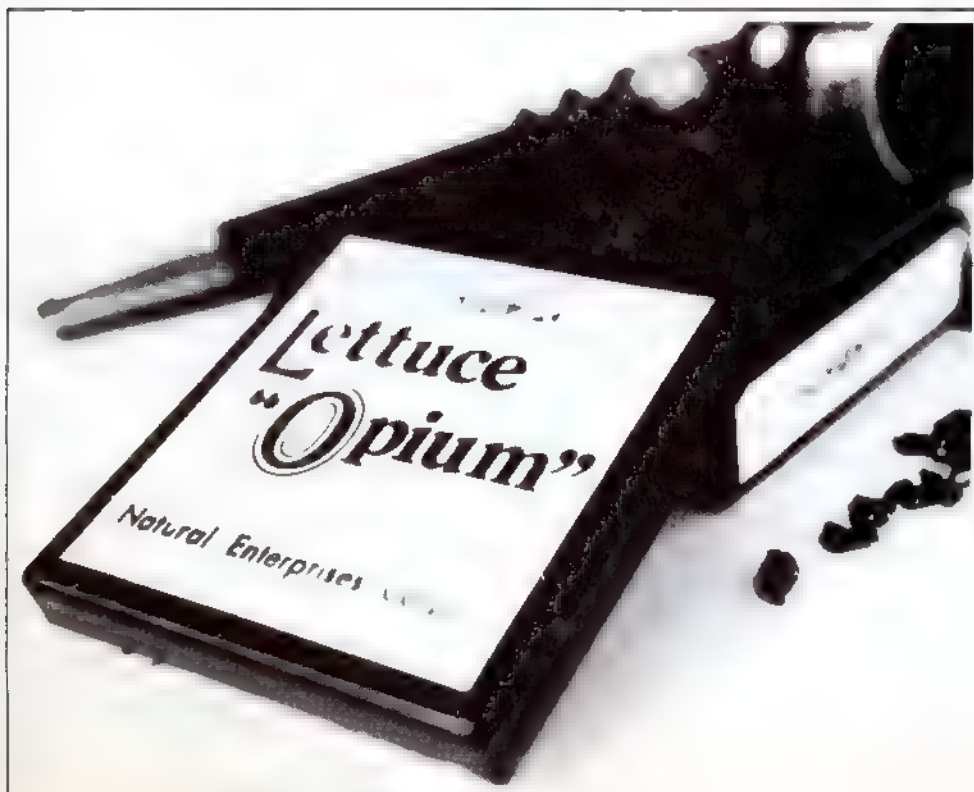
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# HIGH WITNESS NEWS



Oct. '76

No. 14

## STATE DEPT. ADMITS MEXICAN TORTURE OF 61 YANKS

*Ford Must Act*

—story on next page



Attorney General Edward Levi has commissioned a study of the short- and long-term policies of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The report is expected to include recommendations on the scope of the agency's work and will specifically investigate allegations that DEA agents were involved in various illegal operations.

## DEA Under Fire

*Justice Dept.  
Probes Again*

—details on page 37

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## Kissinger Aide Confirms Cattle Prod Torture Used in Mexico

WASHINGTON—At least 61 of the 607 Americans being held in Mexican prisons on a variety of charges have been physically abused, including torture by electric cattle prods, according to Assistant Secretary of State William H. Leurs.

"The situation is a serious problem," said Leurs, who serves as a top advisor to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. Over the past months the problem has been complicated by Mexico's sensitivity about U.S. criticism of Mexican jails.

"Mexico's very proximity and involvement with the United States makes her officials particularly sensitive to indications of U.S. encroachment on Mexican sovereignty and independence," Leurs explained.

As of June, 607 Americans were confined in Mexican jails, including 163 arrested on what the U.S. State Department terms "nondrug-related charges."

In response to recent Mexican developments, the House Subcommittee on International Politics and Military Affairs enacted an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act that requires President Ford to confer directly with Mexican President José López Portillo on the problem of mistreatment of American prisoners in Mexico. The new federal act, known as the Fascell Amendment, also requires that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger report to Congress every three months on the progress of diplomatic talks

between the two governments.

The amendment, sponsored by Reps. Dante Fascell and Pete Stark, is not expected to have any effect for at least six months.


Although the amendment is being hailed as the first major step toward restoring human and legal rights to U.S. citizens jailed in Mexico, many people in Congress close to the Mexican situation are not entirely content with the amendment.

"The Fascell Amendment is not doing much to improve the treatment of Americans in Mexican jails," warned Joseph Overton, an aide to Rep. Barry M. Goldwater, Jr. "The amendment is by no means an assurance that all is well in Mexico."



Robert McNeill

William H. Leurs, the first high-ranking State Department official to confirm that Americans are being physically tortured in Mexican prisons, is reportedly angered that the U.S. government has refused to take the initiative in securing the release of the 607 American prisoners.



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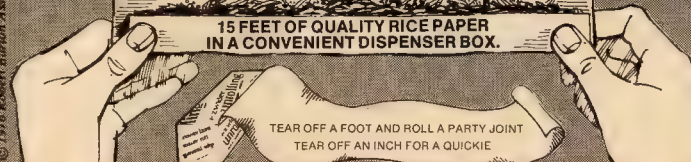
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# Attorney General Orders New DEA Probe

By Bill Choyke

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Edward Levi has quietly established an internal committee to study the short- and long-term policies of the Drug Enforcement Administration. This is the third top-level federal probe of the DEA. Previous investigations by Senator Henry Jackson of Washington led to the resignation of DEA Director John Bartels in 1975. Results of another probe, known as the DeFeo report, are still being kept secret by the Justice Department.

The internal Justice study, which will make recommendations to Levi, comes in the wake of allegations that DEA agents in foreign operations have assisted in the kidnapping of suspected drug dealers and domestically have violated individuals' constitutional rights through illegal searches and seizures.

Levi's new committee, composed of seven Justice officials, expects to send a tentative draft of its report to the attorney general's office this coming winter. Sources

at the Justice Department report that Levi asked for the DEA study as part of an overall plan to examine the department's law-enforcement mechanisms. A more publicized review of FBI policies and practices is also being undertaken.

"We're basically dealing with the nature of the agency's mission and the types of activities it might engage in—both foreign and domestic," said Irwin Goldbloom, a deputy attorney general who chairs the DEA study committee.

So far, Goldbloom says, the

agency has cooperated fully with the review. However, another top Justice Department source said that there has been some resistance among agents.

"The working agent will say, 'What the hell! We have our own rules of conduct, what do we need this for?'" one source said.

The committee was established last fall and consists of representa-

tives from seven divisions within the Justice Department, the attorney general's office, the deputy attorney general, the litigating division, civil rights, criminal, office of policy and planning and the DEA itself.

In a recent interview, Goldbloom stressed that the committee would not be reviewing the DEA's management per se. "We're not trying to administer the agency," he said. As described by Goldbloom and other sources, the committee is expected to make recommendations on the scope of the agency's authority and purview as well as prescribing standard operating procedures for DEA agents.

## Personal Dossier Requests Swamp DEA

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is being swamped by requests for data under the Federal Freedom of Information Act. Ninety percent of the requests come from prison inmates seeking information about friends who may be under investigation, says Bruce Jensen, chief of the DEA's New York Task Force.

Jensen told the New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Conference that the agency's administrative staff working on requests for information is larger than the investigative staffs of 80 field offices. Jensen noted that if the DEA does not respond to any request for information within 10 days, the petitioner can go to court to demand the data.

The Freedom of Information Act was amended in 1974 to remove certain investigative material from the list of documents

exempt from public release. Jensen said that the number of requests for information has grown from just a few in 1974 to 675 in 1975.

"We have estimated that this processing costs the taxpayer \$380,000. The most we can charge is 10 cents a page. Last year we received \$900 in fees," said Jensen.

## To Our Readers

High Times welcomes news clippings and information sent by readers. Please accompany your newsworthy items with the name of the newspaper, date published, and any additional comments. Please be brief! All material should be sent to: HighWitness News, High Times, Box 386, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.



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## High Crimes

### 3,800 Pounds Nabbed Near Atlanta Cairo Hash Bust Nets 400 Keys

• Three thousand, eight hundred pounds of Colombian weed were confiscated at Fulton County's Charlie Brown Airport near Atlanta, Georgia, after a Lockheed Lodestar made an unauthorized landing to refuel. Prior to its arrival at Charlie Brown, the Lodestar had made another illegal refueling stop in Anniston, Alabama, where local sheriffs alerted officials in Georgia. Arrested in connection with the alleged smuggling scheme was Calvin Franklin, 52, of Mapleton, Georgia.

• Two North Korean diplomats were arrested by Egyptian Customs officials for attempting to smuggle 400 kilograms of hashish into Cairo. The unidentified diplomats were collared after a baggage check by a suspicious Customs official revealed 50 kilos of hash in each of eight bags bearing the North Korean diplomatic seal.

• A 44-year-old mother of three was convicted of possession of an undisclosed amount of marijuana with intent to sell. Lillette Saucier, of Lewiston, Maine, said she sold grass in order to feed her children. Twice-divorced, she said her ex-

husbands stopped paying child support, and she had no other way to earn money.

• A New Jersey couple was arrested for alleged possession of a half-ton of marijuana that police reportedly discovered in a van



Samples of the contents of some four hundred 50-pound bags of Colombian marijuana were DEA-tagged and photographed before the cache was burned at a Mississippi barrow pit.

they were led to by an adolescent picked up for a small amount of grass. Arrested were George L. Jarrell, 30, and his 17-year-old wife. Police also found four shotguns, five rifles, three handguns and an assortment of ammunition in the van.

• Fancy footwork by the Border Patrol led to the capture and arrest of six illegal aliens who allegedly tried to smuggle 275 pounds of grass across the border at Chula Vista, California. Border Patrol agents claim that they spotted the aliens in an alfalfa field, found the weed in their knapsacks and then followed their footprints to the border. The aliens are Liberto Rena-Gomez, Jesus Oviedo-Blanco, Jesus Arayo-Medina, Antonio Becerra-Castillo, Miguel Vega-Zinaco and Adriel Yanes-Rubies.

• A La Jolla, California, man was accused of conspiring to import marijuana into the U.S. by sailboat Richard Mark Lampert, 26, was arrested by DEA agents for allegedly importing 600 pounds of pot from Thailand on his 22-foot Bianchi, tempesti-class vessel.

• Over 1,330 pounds of pot was reportedly found in the back of a pickup truck near La Paloma, Texas, by U.S. Customs Patrol Officers. Abel Aguilar Vasquez, 24, of Harlingen, Texas, was arrested for alleged possession and intent to distribute.

• Police in Wichita, Kansas, confiscated 30,000 tablets of amphetamines and barbiturates, more than 100 pounds of marijuana and small quantities of cocaine and heroin, and arrested 11 unidentified persons, mostly mi-

nors, on a variety of drug charges.

• A furniture store in Hammond, Indiana, which allegedly served as a front for a major marijuana distribution center for the Midwest, was busted by federal agents and the local police. Police seized 400 pounds of marijuana boxed in zip-lock bags in a van parked in the store's garage and arrested George Langer, 34, John L. Herron, 38, and Robert E. Capua, 35. Langer, the owner of the store, and the other two employees were charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

• French Customs officials at Paris's post Orly airport made a record pot haul when they found 220 pounds in four suitcases allegedly belonging to a German couple. The unidentified couple, who live in Morocco, said that they had no idea of what the luggage, which belonged to a friend, contained.

• Thirteen persons were indicted for reportedly smuggling more than six tons of dope into the country from Mexico. The indictment also accused the suspects of transporting \$596,390 in undeclared currency across the Mexican and Canadian borders. Five of the thirteen indicted were from Phoenix. Ernesto Tercero, 26, Juan A. Tercero, 27, Dorothy Hood, 21, Jerrold Van Hoeg, 25, and Robert V. Moore, 22. The other eight were Dale D. Bruneau, Pamela Taurman, Jeffrey Kohner, Pattie Lou Bean, Richard E. Lucken, Marion J. Carlson, Eliseo Peraza, and William L. Cooper.

• Five ounces of the horse tranquilizer phencyclidine were confis-

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cated by Toronto narcs who arrested five people in connection with three separate raids that all involved the tranquilizer as well as a small amount of hashish. Arrested were Sandra Ferrier, 23, Larry Charles Leppington, 27, Susan Janet Reaney, 23, and Vincent and Linda Hughey, ages 34 and 24.

- Felipe Martinez Gobeia, 22, of Fort Worth, Texas, was arrested by Border Patrolmen near Fallurinas when they reportedly discovered 200 pounds of marijuana in the trunk of his car. He was charged with possession with intent to distribute.
- Connecticut State Police seized one-half million amphetamines

from a van at the scene of an accident. Jean Marc Beausejour, 21, from the Montreal area, allegedly smuggled the pills in from Canada and fell asleep at the wheel of his van.

- Montreal aviation executive David Greenberg, 37, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment on charges of importing over a ton

of hashish into Canada from Lebanon and the U.S.

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Regina, Canada seized 900 ounces of dope from Paul Bachynsky, 26, and Jerry Fres, 22. The RCMP narc squad reported that this was one of the area's larger busts and said that it indicated the

(continued on page 80)



Fifteen tons of marijuana went up in smoke as federal, state and local authorities threw the biggest pot party ever held in Mass. pp. at a Hancock County barrow pit. The grass came into the Port Bonville Industrial Park aboard a 70-foot trawler and was unloaded at the old Jackson Landing Shipyard site onto a waiting van. It was transported north to an isolated spot not far from where it was burned.

Steven Matthews

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# Florida Cop Kills Mushroom Pickers

Two Tennessee men were shot in the back of the head and killed by a Florida policeman who caught them trespassing in a field of wild psilocybin mushrooms outside Parkland, Florida. Officer William Cobb, 28, fatally shot Donald Everett Eldridge, 22, and Roger Daugherty, 24, both from Cookeville, Tennessee. Eldridge died instantly, and Daugherty died the next day at Margate General Hospital, never regaining consciousness.

Cobb was indicted on two counts by the Broward County Grand Jury several weeks after the murders took place. The details of his indictment were not released, but sources close to the case indicated that the only possible charges were first-degree murder, second-degree murder and manslaughter. Cobb, who had not yet been served with a warrant for his arrest, appeared voluntarily before the grand jury and was suspended without pay. He had served on the three-man Parkland force for less than a year.

According to Cobb's statement, he entered the field, which is owned by Leadership, Inc., a development company that leases the land to rancher Lynn Dew to graze cattle, after receiving a phone call one Saturday night from neighbors complaining that two men were scaling the fence enclosing the pasture. Cobb had arrested two other trespassers in that same field earlier that day.

Returning to the area, he found Eldridge picking mushrooms about two-tenths of a mile from the road. Cobb said that he asked Eldridge to leave, he refused, and the officer clamped a handcuff on his left wrist.

At this point, Cobb contends that Daugherty rushed him from behind, knocking him to the ground. Cobb said he fired two warning shots into the air, when

Daugherty turned, yelled an incoherent phrase and ran toward him. Cobb claims he was being tugged by Eldridge, but still managed to fire two more shots at the charging Daugherty. Cobb told the investigators that he did not know

Cobb then shot him in the back of his head.

At about this time, Parkland Police Chief Richard Nickel arrived, bringing with him the two trespassers who had been arrested earlier, because there is no holding jail in Parkland. However, investigators believe that they did not witness the shooting. One of the officers reportedly overheard Cobb tell Nickel, "One guy is and one guy isn't."

Trespassing and mushroom picking have been growing problems in recent years in this area. Chief Nickel said that there are currently seven cases concerning mushroom picking pending in Parkland. There have been about 100 arrests in the last few years for mushroom picking. Under Florida law, there is no penalty for mushroom picking. The maximum penalty for trespassing is \$500 or 60 days in jail.

Local farmers said that the mushroom pickers coming onto their property are "a constant problem." Said one, "It's been getting worse lately. They vandalize sheds and leave gates open so cattle can get out. We want the police to keep them out."

However, local resident David Shell denies this. "Most pickers are afraid of cows and especially bulls, thus avoiding them. The situation was ridiculous, and now it is insane."



Officer William Cobb

Fort Lauderdale News

if he had hit him, but did see him fall to the ground on his knees. Cobb said that he then went to help Daugherty, but Eldridge, still handcuffed to Cobb, hit him across the face with the cuff.

According to Cobb's account, he and Eldridge wrestled to get hold of Cobb's revolver, and

Greg Rimoldi, a friend of the two slain men, described them as mild-mannered people, not the type to challenge police. "They were stopped by a policeman for trespassing before, and there was no problem," he said. "I find it hard to believe that they would attack a cop."

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## N.Y. Pot Arrests Top 30,000

For the second consecutive year, marijuana arrests in New York State for 1975 exceeded 30,000 at a cost to the taxpayer of \$60 million, according to figures released by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

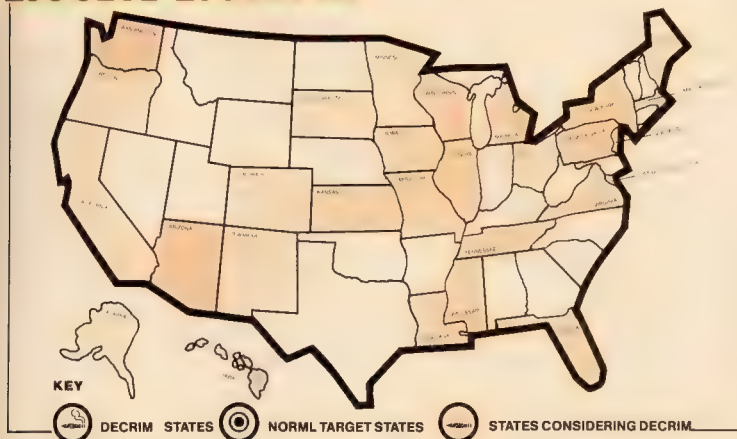
Frank Fioramonti, the New York State NORML director commented, "Two very disturbing patterns emerge from these shocking statistics. First, only 1,979 of these arrests—a mere 5.8 percent—were for the sale or distribution of marijuana. Thus, despite frequent statements that the police are only interested in ap-

prehending marijuana sellers and dealers, over 94 percent of all arrests were for possession.

"Secondly, the brunt of marijuana law enforcement still falls on very young people," Fioramonti continued. "According to the New York Police Department, fully 50.2 percent of the more than 7,000 city marijuana arrests last year were of persons under the age of 20, 73.8 percent were under age 24. Scarce criminal justice resources continue to be wasted arresting and prosecuting mostly young, otherwise law-abiding citizens for possessing small amounts of marijuana."



# Reefer Reform



## DECRIMINALIZATION A Look at 21 State Legislatures

### Arizona

Arizona is one of two states where even minor marijuana offenses are classified as a felony (maximum 10 years). However, a decriminalization proposal, Senate Bill 1351, is currently awaiting final action by the state senate, having recently received a favorable recommendation from the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill would impose a maximum \$200 civil fine for possession of 50 grams of pot or less. This measure has been supported by the Arizona Bar Association, the Board of Governors of the Arizona Medical Association, the Chairman of the Arizona Narcotics Strike Force and the Tucson Daily Citizen.

### Connecticut

Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso has repeatedly opposed marijuana reform. Last year she stopped a measure that would set a low civil fine, which had received a favorable committee recommendation. A similar bill that would impose a \$50 civil fine was recently introduced. The Connecticut Drug Council has supported decriminalization.

### District of Columbia

Washington, D.C. delayed its marijuana bill, City Bill 1-44, which would reduce penalties to a maximum \$100 fine for possession and not-for-profit transfer of an ounce of marijuana. After receiving preliminary approval, the measure was tabled when the D.C. City Council bowed to pressure from a coalition of Baptist ministers, Mayor Walter Washington and Congressperson Charles Diggs. Chairperson of the House D.C. Committee. It has the endorsement of the D.C. Medical Society, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse, and the D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Harold Breen. The Washington Post and the Washington Star have also endorsed the measure.

### Florida

A "grow-your-own" bill, which would allow cultivation of five plants in the home, is expected to be reintroduced in the Florida legislature, along with bill S.B. 269, which would set a maximum \$100 criminal fine. Decriminalization has the support of Chief Justice Atkins of the Florida Supreme

Court, the Florida Young Democrats, the Miami Herald, the St. Petersburg Times and the Tampa Tribune.

### Georgia

House Bill 1026, which would have allowed possession of an ounce of marijuana and imposed a \$100 fine, was recently defeated on the floor of the Georgia legislature. However, a measure to penalize minor marijuana cases with a maximum \$300 criminal fine while retaining the arrest procedures and criminal classification did receive approval. Decriminalization has been endorsed by the Atlanta Bar Association, the Metropolitan Atlanta Council on Alcohol and Drugs as well as the Metropolitan Atlanta Mental Health Association.

### Hawaii

The Hawaiian legislature is considering measure S.B. 177, which calls for a maximum \$100 civil violation for up to one ounce. It was approved by the Senate Health Committee following public hearings and is now in the Ways

and Means Committee because amendments to the bill require expenditures to develop quality-control standards and procedures that would permit consumer-testing of small amounts. Although the State Medical Association and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin have endorsed decriminalization, Governor George Ariyoshi remains strongly opposed to such a move and told *High Times* that he would not sign a decrim bill.

### Illinois

A plan to introduce a marijuana decriminalization bill resembling Oregon's has been announced by Illinois Representative Harold Katz. Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who is hoping for input before drafting the actual proposal. A similar measure was approved by the House Judiciary Committee last session before being defeated by a procedural move on the floor. Decriminalization has been endorsed by the Illinois Bar Association, the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Medical Society, the Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission, the Chicago Daily News and the Sun Times.

(continued on page 42)



## Legal Reform



(continued from page 41)

### Kansas

A proposal to totally decriminalize the possession and not-for-profit transfer of two ounces of marijuana is being considered by the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee. Although hearings were held back in February, no vote has yet been taken, and it looks like it won't be voted upon until next year. The concept of a civil-citation system has been endorsed by the Kansas United Dry Forces, among others.

### Louisiana

Decriminalization bills similar to those in Oregon have recently been introduced in the Louisiana House and Senate. Decriminalization has been endorsed by the state attorney-general and the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, the New Orleans States-Items, the New Orleans Times-Picayune and Governor Edwin Edwards.

### Maryland

Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel continues as an outspoken opponent to marijuana reform, and two bills that would have decriminalized possession of marijuana were recently defeated by the state legislature. H.B. 31, the House Bill that called for a maximum \$100 criminal fine for possession of up to one ounce of marijuana, and Senate Bill 528, imposing a maximum \$100 civil fine, were both defeated. The Montgomery County Prosecutor has announced a policy of de facto decriminalization in that urban county, refusing to prosecute minor offenses. Decriminalization also has the endorsement of the warden of the Baltimore City Jail and the Baltimore Sun.

### Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Legislature is once again considering measures to decriminalize marijuana. Two bills up in the House are H.B. 2304, which calls for a maximum \$50 civil fine for possession of up to one ounce, and H.B. 2303, a complete decriminalization bill. In

past years, similar measures received favorable committee action, but were defeated on the floor. Decriminalization has been endorsed by the State Democratic Party, the Boston Coordinating Council on Drug Abuse, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Globe and Governor Michael S. Dukakis.

### Michigan

A floor vote by the Michigan legislature is due soon on a measure to impose a maximum \$100 criminal fine for possession of marijuana. The proposal, H.B. 5627, was approved by the Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee of the House, after the measure was amended to cover only first-time possession of quantities up to 18 grams. Governor William Milliken supports decriminalization, as do the Michigan Office of Substance Abuse Services, the Michigan Sheriff's Association, the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems and the Detroit Free Press.

### Mississippi

After some alleged "backroom maneuvering" by the Mississippi House Leadership, the House Judiciary Committee recently tied (12-12) on H.B. 708, a maximum \$100 civil fine, one-ounce proposal. The bill won't be reconsidered until the next session. Decriminalization is supported by the Mississippi Young Democrats, the Division of Drug Misuse of the State Department of Mental Health and the three gubernatorial candidates.

### Missouri

Missouri NORML has been attempting to enact a \$100 civil fine via House Bill 1510. This law would cover possession and not-for-profit transfer of one ounce of marijuana. Although H.B. 1510 has yet to be passed by the Missouri House of Representatives due to opposition by House Majority Leader Richard Rabbitt, marijuana decriminalization in the state has the endorsement of the Drug and Substance Abuse Council of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Missouri Association for Mental Health, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Department of Mental Health and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### New Jersey

A maximum \$100 civil fine, one-ounce measure (A.B. 1544) is cur-

rently pending in the New Jersey assembly, and a similar measure will shortly be reintroduced in the Senate. The Assembly proposal was the focus of Judiciary Committee hearings during the 1975 session, but no committee vote has yet been taken. These measures have the support of a New Jersey Joint Legislative Commission, New Jersey Attorney General William Hyland and the New Jersey Psychological Association, among others.

### New York

Governor Hugh Carey of New York has proposed a decriminalization bill, as has Democratic Assemblyman Gottfried of Manhattan, and Republican legislators are planning to introduce a more conservative measure. The governor's proposal would set a maximum \$250 civil fine for possession or transfer of two ounces, regardless of circumstances. Gottfried's calls for a two-ounce possession and not-for-profit transfer, with a maximum \$100 civil fine. Both Democrats and Republicans seem to see the need for reforming New York's current law, which still permits a 15-year jail term for possessing one ounce of marijuana. Decriminalization has been endorsed by the Correctional Association of New York, the Episcopal Diocese of New York, the New York State Bar Association, the Alliance for a Safer New York, the New York Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), three separate special narcotics grand juries and the New York Times.

### Pennsylvania

Maximum \$100 fine decriminalization bills (H.B. 1699/S.B. 1251) are pending in the Pennsylvania House Law and Justice Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. The House Bill has already received the approval of the House Judiciary Committee. Decriminalization has been endorsed by the Pennsylvania Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Governor Milton J. Shapp.

### Tennessee

Despite endorsement by Governor Ray Blanton, a Tennessee decriminalization proposal to impose a maximum \$50 criminal fine for possession of an ounce of marijuana died in committee after failing one vote short of a majority.

Tennessee police are allowed to issue a criminal citation for all misdemeanor offenses instead of taking the offender into custody, attempts are underway to adopt departmental standards that encourage use of the citation provisions for any marijuana offense. Decriminalization is endorsed by the Tennessee Medical Association, a Special Joint Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly, the State Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, the Chattanooga Appeal and the Memphis Press Scimitar.

### Virginia

The Virginia legislature has not yet considered a bill for decriminalization of marijuana, but they did lower the penalties for possession of hashish from a felony to a misdemeanor. The Drug Abuse Committee of the Northern Virginia Planning Commission has endorsed decriminalization, as has the Virginia Legislative Audit and Review Commission.

### Washington

The Washington legislature did not take a final vote this year on the maximum \$100 proposals (S.B. 291/H.B. 689), which had previously received approval of the House and Senate Social and Health Services Committees. Seattle has been operating under a municipal civil-citation system for several months, and decriminalization has the support of Governor Dan Evans, the Director of the State Department of Social and Health Services and the Washington State Bar Association.

### Wisconsin

Because of an extremely short legislative session, the Wisconsin Legislature did not vote on either of two current bills for decriminalization. Proposal S.B. 1209 would set a maximum \$100 civil fine for 100 grams of marijuana or one ounce of hashish, and S.B. 669 would fix a maximum \$100 civil fine for one ounce of marijuana or one-third ounce of hashish. Decriminalization has received endorsements from the League of Women Voters, the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice, the State Council on Drug Abuse, the State Controlled Substances Board and the State Department of Health and Social Services. It has also received support from State Attorney General Bronson LaFollette and two newspapers, the Milwaukee Journal and the Madison Capital Times.

# STAMP HELP OUT!

## THE POT SMOKERS

Text and pictures by  
**LENNY  
BRUCE**

The  
following  
is . . .

a pictorial and written thesis on the dread narcotic, *Cannabis sativa*, also, in the idiom of those poor souls who are involved with this living death, pot, grass, mota, yerba, or the very clandestine "my friend," or "anything," over the phone to avoid detection, "Did your friend get in yet?" or "Did he bring anything?" or the vulgarity, "Is anything happening?"

In 1962, Lenny Bruce published Stamp Help Out! The Pot Smokers as a brochure to sell at his concerts. He also gave copies to poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti to sell at his City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco. Stamp Help Out! was a landmark in stoned humor and contains Lenny's only extended discussion of marijuana.

By January 1963, Bruce was already involved in numerous disputes over the ownership of his work and embroiled in narcotics busts and obscenity trials that could hardly be helped by the introduction of an exhibit in which he displayed a liberated, humorous attitude toward drug use. He sent Ferlinghetti a telegram ordering the destruction of all the remaining copies of Stamp Help Out! The copies were promptly destroyed, the few remaining are riddled with holes punched through all of Lenny's famous four-letter words. The following selections were made from the only undamaged copy known to be in existence, in the collection of the Fitz Hugh Ludlow Memorial Library of Psychoactive Drug Literature in San Francisco







### A Good Count

Sometimes the connection, to boost business, will give the user a little extra. Here is the Author with an oz. in the background that he is protecting.



### A Joint

Author shown holding a part of a marijuana cigarette.



### A Short count

If the user is of noble blood, marijuana has been known to reduce the individual's physical size. Count Berazzo and Count Putzolob are pictured.



### ManiCuring

The process used in separating the tobacco from the twigs. The Author is pictured here with a confiscated manicuring machine.

### Copping

Are you going to cop tonight?" After smoking the hemp, the costume fetish seems to manifest itself



### Getting ....BUSTed

A pound of marijuana rolled into cigarettes retails on the market for \$630,000. All people involved with narcotics and the pushers are extremely wealthy. This can be established by just picking up the paper and looking at the names and addresses of the arrested: waitresses, jazz musicians, fender men, garment center finishers, busboys, dance instructresses. They report these occupations, but they are just

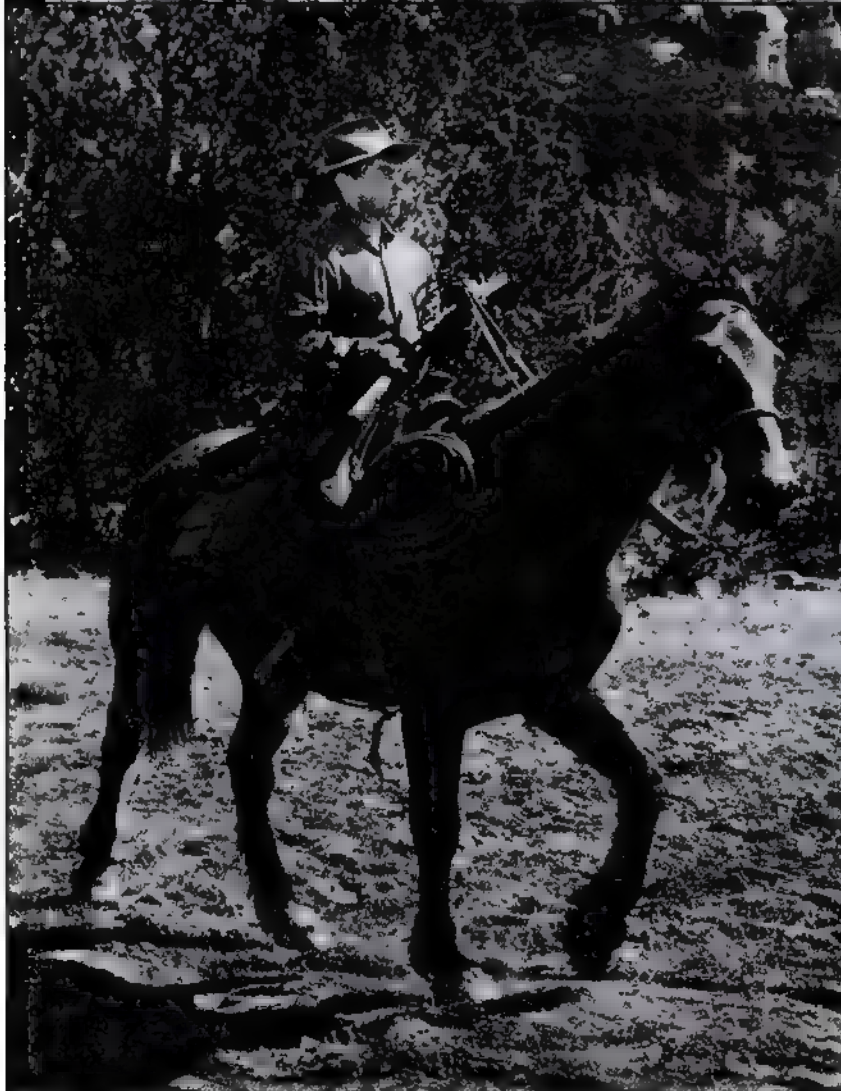
subterfuges. Because of the millions of dollars involved with this traffic these people obviously keep these jobs for a front. Arrest incidents for marijuana involvements are negligible with most people that have the following occupations: Congressmen, probation officers, bowlers, asthmatics, Ku Klux Klan members, Jewish grandmothers and opium smokers.





## zonked

Marijuana that is not smoked. The user sits approximately eighteen inches from the stalk and inhales the fumes.



## Pusher

Not to be confused with Bronx secretary rejection, "Don't get pushy."



## A Head

After smoking the weed, the users sometimes involve themselves in a macabre game called "doing up the car." The individual's head is usually the only part left. Special Agent Harold Horney poses.



**Holding**

User's term, relating to possession of the drug. Here is the Author showing "the holding method."



**Viper**

A rare snake that can be smoked. Not to be confused with smoked lox or ham.

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COSTS OF DESTROYING ANY REMAINING BOOKS LETTER EXPLAINING FOLLOWS  
YOURS VERY TRULY  
LENNY BRUCE. B



# R. Gordon Wasson

(continued from page 30)

ing glory seeds did you take, and how were they prepared?

**Wasson:** The seeds are ground into a fine flour, then put into water, and the water is filtered. The dose is the cap of a beer bottle filled with seeds

**High Times:** Are the seeds and the mushrooms used in similar ceremonies?

**Wasson:** The ceremony is identical, and some *curanderos* will alternate between the two substances, although almost all prefer one or the other. Perhaps this is owing to the circumstances of the village where each lives; that one is more common than the other.

**High Times:** Are you familiar with the psychoactive mint plant, *Salvia divinorum*?

**Wasson:** It is taken throughout the Mazatec country. In fact, it is cultivated in isolated places, near watercourses, and everyone knows where to find a supply of *Salvia divinorum*, which they call *shka pastora*, or the leaves of the shepherdess. I've asked many people who the shepherdess was, because I don't think the shepherdess figures at all in Christian tradition; it must be a pagan concept

**High Times:** Is *shka pastora* used in ceremonies similar to those of the mushrooms and morning glory seeds?

**Wasson:** The ceremonies are identical.

**High Times:** What about the effects?

**Wasson:** The only time I took *Salvia divinorum* I experienced an effect that was much milder than that of the mushrooms. It may be because I didn't take enough or my portion was not large enough.

**High Times:** Have you ever used marijuana or any marijuana preparations?

**Wasson:** Yes, I was given some in India, but I'm not a marijuana expert.

**High Times:** How did you ingest it in India?

**Wasson:** In a tea called *bhang*, which is a common way of taking cannabis there.

**High Times:** What were the effects that you experienced?

**Wasson:** I didn't feel any. Perhaps my hosts were too afraid to give me an effective dose.

**High Times:** Have you ever wanted to use it in the United States?

**Wasson:** I've had no desire to—I specialize in mushrooms. That was an original quest that my wife and I went on, and I feel that we reached our goal in Mexico and accomplished our purpose.

**High Times:** Have you ever ingested mushrooms outside of Mexico?

**Wasson:** Oh, yes, often, in New York. But I never ingested the mushrooms lightly. I have taken them only when there was some specific purpose to be served.

**High Times:** What do you consider to be a practical purpose for taking the mushrooms?

**Wasson:** For example, to know whether eight weeks after you have gathered them in the field, they will still retain their potency.

**High Times:** Have you tried synthetic psilocybin?

**Wasson:** Oh, yes. But I don't remember how many times.

**High Times:** As I recall, you were the subject of some experiments with synthetic psilocybin, were you not?

**Wasson:** In Switzerland, yes.

**High Times:** How would you compare its effects to those of the magic mushrooms?

**Wasson:** Professor Heim and I both felt that the genuine mushroom was more effective than the synthetic compound, but this may be a subjective reaction to our experience. Dr. Albert Hofmann, who is the best of friends with us both and certainly knows his stuff, says that the synthetic should have precisely the same effect.

**High Times:** Didn't Dr. Hofmann give some synthetic psilocybin to Maria Sabina in Mexico?

**"If you  
have the slightest  
hesitation, don't take  
them. You will have an  
unpleasant experience,  
and it desecrates the  
mushrooms."**

**Wasson:** Yes, in 1962 when he and Mrs. Hofmann went to Mexico with me. We found Maria Sabina and presented her with a bottle of pills, which she proved effective that night. She sang a *velada*.

**High Times:** What are your future plans?

**Wasson:** I am 77 years old, but I wish to finish the book I am now writing, which will deal with Mesoamerica, that is, Mexico and Guatemala.

In my last book, I gave the text of Maria Sabina's *velada* in Mazatec, English and Spanish. That was a tremendous job, and I felt rather exhausted at the end of it. Now I wish to publish an overall view of mycolatry in Mesoamerica today, in the seventeenth century, in the proceedings of the Inquisition, in prequest times and archaeologically as far back as we can go. I have a number of conclusions that will be, I think, rather sensational.

**High Times:** Will this book be written for the popular audience?

**Wasson:** I am trying, but after all, this is a serious subject, and I have to put in serious material. At any rate, it should be popular among the drug element, and I hope to make it cheap, although lavishly illustrated

**High Times:** Have you any publishing plans beyond the book?

**Wasson:** I am going to write another book that is a sequel to *Soma*, on all that has been revealed since 1968. All of this material is favorable to my theory.

**High Times:** I understand that you once did some writing in a different field from ethnomycology. Would you comment?

**Wasson:** Yes, of course. I published a treatise called *The Hall Carbine Affair*, concerning an episode of the Civil War. I think it deserves more attention than it has received.

**High Times:** What are your feelings on the legal situation regarding hallucinogenic mushrooms in the United States today?

**Wasson:** I think any legislation against hallucinogenic mushrooms and cannabis that makes their consumption illegal is as futile as the Prohibition law. Such laws are only conducive to the profit of disreputable elements in our community. Those elements will favor banning them. These drugs should be legalized, and they should be regulated.

**High Times:** You are clearly the father of the field of ethnomycology, yet you have never studied in graduate school or worked as a professional anthropologist. What are your professional affiliations?

**Wasson:** I am an honorary research fellow at Harvard Botanical Museum, honorary Research Associate of the New York Botanical Garden and a member of the Linnean Society of London.

**High Times:** Has the United States government or any foundation funded your research?

**Wasson:** Two foundations have volunteered meager amounts to me, and I'm greatly indebted to them.

**High Times:** Medical research has shown that psilocybin and similar psychoactive agents are effective in psychotherapy and offer a promising future. What do you think about the future of hallucinogenic mushrooms and other compounds?

**Wasson:** That is a difficult question. I'm of two minds about it. Certainly I'm not proud of the wave of use by neophytes who do not know the depth of this experience, and who take mushrooms for a thrill. Huautla and similar communities in Mexico have been considerably upset by an influx of strangers looking for *curanderos*. This is a great responsibility that I must bear.

I feel equally responsible for the misuse of these mushrooms elsewhere, by people who just wish an initial thrill. The Indians who have used them for thousands of years know that it takes experience, it takes patience, it takes the right set, it takes the right setting. It takes at least a dozen experiences to know really what they can do for you. I see only incipient signs that Europeans and Americans are exploring these possibilities. ■



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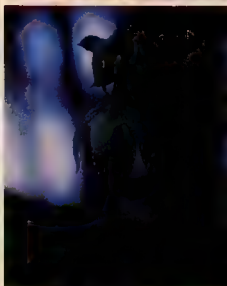
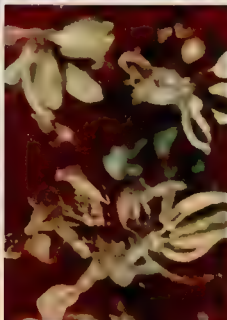
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Top left: This hemp tree is growing amid evergreens, which add a lot to the privacy of the place. And believe it or not, this pot has a pine scent and smokes cooler than Kools. Lower left: Grown from exotic

equatorial seeds, this second-generation baby is a real mutant. Lots of resin and look, Ma, no serration.

Right, top to bottom: Going, going, gone. Big Sur is shinsmilla country

where grows the heady stuff of unrequited plant love. The top male is ready to drop and should be stopped before he shamelessly sticks out his stamen (middle) and drops his pollen (bottom).





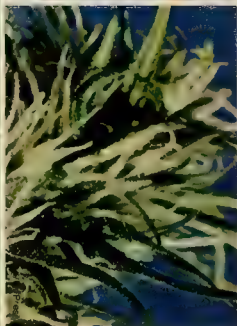
Left. Meet the females.

These pink platia (top) come from lack of mates. Naturally, a lonely plant gets gussied up. The bottom belle is as horny as she'll

ever get; her juices are flowing.

Above right. This fine, gold tree is ready to move on to the next life. Chances are it will go to supply local Pacific cliff dwellers.

Below right: This beauty comes from Hawaiian ancestry. The top leaves yellow throughout the season, but they keep on coming.



#### Special Tips from Ma and Pa

1. Your biggest adversaries are the wildlife and the weather. Lion dung keeps away dope-eating deer, and human urine will deter some predators. Rodents, like rats and rabbits, are out to get you, but raccoons and foxes are on your side.

2. A big misconception has to do with the size of the root system. A new sprout will bottom out a 14-ounce cup within a week, so a taller, quart-size container is best to start your seeds, especially if you want to let them go for a month or so. Then you can plant only the best, the darkest green and bushiest—those most likely to be females.

3. Phosphorus and nitrogen encourage growth and development of females. Keep pumping them until sex differentiation becomes apparent, then cut back. The deficiency will stimulate resin production, but excess will inhibit.

4. As it gets on toward harvest time, cut back on watering, too. We think the plants should be allowed to wilt in the midday sun. This forces them to put out more stony resin to keep their upper leaves from burning.



And so, as the sun sets over the western ocean, let us bid a fond farewell to the hard-working but high-living farmers of the Pacific palisades. They'll be turning in soon, but only so they can rise bright and early for daydreaming.



and loadiest plant used to selectively pollinate the branchiest of the females when they reach full maturity.

Out of the hundred plants we grew, about 50 were females, and some of them yielded over a pound per plant. Our best ounce sold for \$175, and we were party to a pound or two that went for \$2,000.

A lot of the fun in growing is in the experimenting and the learning. Don't do the same things with each plant. Pruning techniques, amount of water and nutrients, and methods of harvesting, alone, will produce huge variations in the end product. Above all, be sensitive—spend time with your plants exchanging good energy. Get the feeling and joy of getting back to the earth. ☐



# Wild Parties

What's wanted is a definitive *theory* of wild parties that you can put in your back pocket and carry around without any unsightly bulge until you pull it out and empty all six chambers into the other guests.

By Rex Warner

Wild parties are the Loch Ness monster. Few will admit witnessing one, and most disagree on its exact nature, but the majority opinion holds that something is definitely out there.

Why try to define it? The reason is that hedonism has become a science, and science always demands precise terminology. If it is to examine the precise nature of atoms, then it seems just as well to examine the precise nature of parties.

Aristotle said that the purpose of the party is to bring pleasure to the guests.

That's not a bad definition, but it's a bit too simple, and many of the guests today tend to feature a bit of people-plant on their faces, blissing out and staring blankly at the world for a juggle of minutes. They're wearing wine-soaked shirts and holding wine-soaked bottles while a hell of a lot of young record hells in the background. You can't join the conversation, involving around the world, and the consequences of the party are how dull are the seventies. That is dull.

So, to define the wild party, you tell us something. You tell us only one thing: everybody's idea of a party is a lot less than somebody else's. And that's what we're doing here all night.



went out with sock hops. But science is unconcerned with fashion; what's wanted is a definitive *theory* of wild parties, an empirically proven principle that you can put in your back pocket and carry around without any unsightly bulge until you pull it out and empty all six chambers into the other guests. A theory that will make any party an affair and a night to remember.

Everyone has their own idea of a wild party. Take the Social Register nabobs, for example, whose lives often depend on their skills of party-giving and party-attending.

Socially prominent hostesses have their own special ingredients for throwing parties. Says Mrs. Kelvin Cox Vanderbilt of Palos Verdes, "It's a bore just to have my close friends at a party. I always add guests who are achievers at their fields to make the party stimulating. I recently asked the head of the Rumanian film industry at the same time I asked the head of Planned Parenthood. They were so fascinated with each other that I had a hard time getting them to go home."

Mrs. Philip Spaulding of Brentwood, New Jersey, declares, "I never invite two bald-headed men to the same party."

Barbara Howar, the Washington, D.C., socialite, author and perennial talk-show guest, says that her favorite party was a gathering of writers about six years ago. "I sat between John Cheever and William Styron. Most of the people there were writers I'd heard about all my life: I thought I'd died and gone to heaven."

Andy Warhol frequents classy parties, too, usually carrying his Minox camera and his pet dachshund, Archie. When queried about his views on parties, the conversation went like this:

**Q.** What do you consider a good party?

**A.** Well, the first thing is no drugs.

**Q.** No drugs?

**A.** No drugs. And a lot of people over 60.

**Q.** Over 60?

**A.** Attractive people over 60. Rich people. I like them to be attractive and rich.

**Q.** How about music? What kind of music should be played at parties?

**A.** I hate music.

**Q.** Well, conversation then. Do you like good conversation at parties?

**A.** No. No conversation. Just people sitting around, like in a hotel lobby. In fact, hotel lobbies are my favorite places.

**Q.** Have you ever been to a party that could be described as wild?

**A.** Never.

It becomes apparent that it is far easier to chalk off what a wild party isn't than to describe what a wild party is. Over the course of this inquiry, many people claimed ignorance and even expressed

disdain for the subject, often with a hipper-than-thou tone that bespoke a slight fear. What if they should reveal an embarrassingly feeble idea of a wild party?

Luckily, not everybody is so guarded, and those willing to give vent to their fantasies and their real-life experiences usually started at the same place.

## Sex

Sex is the first thing that comes to everyone's mind when they think of wild parties

"A wild party," says my old friend Johnny Bob, "is where the girls throw their panties against the wall and they stick."

"A wild party," says my old friend Tom, "is where everybody leaves their clothes at the door."

That seems wild enough. But as anyone who has participated in an orgy knows, simply copulating en masse can be as boring as gym class calisthenics. Joey Skaggs, who during the heydays of hippie, led busloads of hairy, stoned freaks from St. Marks Place on sightseeing tours of suburbia, has this advice on orgies: "Remember where you put your clothes so you can make a quick exit."

"A wild party?" ponders Patti Smith. "Not since I was, uh, seven. I dunno. I feel kind of strange at parties, like I just go off into a corner and watch everybody. I feel like the guy in *La Dolce Vita*—detached, sort of. You know, if you don't have specific morals, then nothing's really wild; I'm more into ecstatic moments, like whirling dervishes.

"Like once I went into this beautiful church somewhere in Mexico. It had like Moslem blue tiles on the walls and everything, and in the middle was this big statue of Christ on the cross. Very lifelike, very sweaty, with the blood, and so... so sexy. And all these women were prostrating themselves in front of it. That was pretty wild. I was swept away.

"But I guess the typical American thing is to party, to do things, wife swapping and stuff, and then in the morning feel guilty. That's the difference between East and West. In the East, they get into dancing and fucking in the name of God with no guilt later. Here there's guilt. That's what my song 'Gloria' is about."

## Stars

"Stars. You must have stars."

That is the opinion of a professional partier who has chosen to fashion his life into one long party. He is a familiar face on the international party circuit and, wishing to retain his open-invitation status, prefers anonymity. I shall call him Punch Bowl.

"Stars can really make a party," says Punch. "The wildest party I ever went to occurred at the end of the national tour of

a particular rock superstar, whose name I cannot reveal. It was in his L.A. hotel suite. It was just incredible. I walked in and after getting past the bodyguards, I saw that every single person in the room was famous.

"I went into the living room and sat down on the couch. On the table in front of me was, I swear, a giant silver dish piled high with cocaine. Right next to it was another dish the same size filled with heroin. People were just taking big pinches of the stuff and packing it into their heads

"Somebody passed me a joint so powerful I took one tiny puff and felt like I'd been punched in the face. I looked around the room, and people were doing the most amazing things. They were being... well, very free with their bodies. In one corner was — (a world-famous writer) having his thing done by a young boy and a naked blonde girl simultaneously. In the other corner was our host, the superstar of all superstars, with a beautiful young girl kneeling busily at his crotch. And right in the middle of the floor was — (a world-famous black athlete), his enormous naked body completely covering the girl he was screwing. All you could see was a pair of little white arms and her skinny little legs sticking straight up in the air.

"And all over the room it was like that, with these very well-known people that you see in the papers and magazines and on television all the time, acting in complete abandon, as though the world was about to end. At one point — (a Hollywood sex-symbol actress) came over, and we just started making out like a couple of kids. Didn't say a word. She simply shoved her hands in my pants and away we went!

"Anyone with a camera that night could have made a fortune. That is, if he could have gotten past the bodyguards."

Punch Bowl's account sounds pretty wild, but then not everyone has entree to celebrities, or even wants to. It takes much more than inviting a famous person to ensure that it is a wild party.

## Extravagance

Parties often escalate into wildness when the host or hostess makes a grand gesture that the guests will never forget. Usually this involves a stupendous expenditure of money or time, or both, resulting in a dazzling, delightful, entertaining display of the party-giver's most hedonistic fantasy. Guests are flown to a private island where famous rock bands put on a concert. Silver fountains spurt champagne. Birthday cakes explode with sequined hookers dancing the boogaloo.

Perhaps the most extravagant party since Nero torched Rome on his birthday was producer Mike Todd's anniversary celebration, back in the 1950s. He was

(continued on page 104)



# EL DORADO

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Searching for gold? The wide streets are paved with kilo bricks in the legendary Seven Cities of Cibola, but where are they? Cortez and his band searched across years and thousands of leagues, plagued by unspeakable hunger, unmentionable diseases, unceasing heat and unsmiling Indians, hampered every step by the need to hack through the eight-foot weeds that were everywhere. If Cortez only knew...

Today, the same rich yellow sheen and warm glow that highlight Tiffany's front window and Mexicans' front teeth still sparkle from this authentic Auras Cannabis. Rarer than any metal, we naturally deduced it would be in a tough steel vault. A little nitroglycerin (not too much) and... here it is. Colombian and Swiss, together.

Blasted is how you'll feel after messing with this rich weed. So turn the page and gaze herein. Ounce for ounce, if you had to choose... □







**BORN**  
**JULY 22, 1941**

**BODE**

**DIED**  
**JULY 18, 1975**

# The Death of the Cheech Wizard

The late, great Vaughn Bodé believed his own PR. Do you?

By Denny O'Neil

If Vaughn were resurrected, it might come as no surprise to hundreds of thousands of his fans. They revered him as a god; hell, they worshiped him like a rock star, if you get right down to it. They bought his work in underground comic books, in *Cavalier*, in the *Lampoon* (where, if his monthly "Cheech Wizard" strip ever failed to appear, outraged letters from disappointed fans were sure to follow); they bought Bodé T-shirts, posters, jigsaw puzzles, paperbacks (including French translations). They flocked to his "Cartoon Concerts" and collected Bodé originals, subscribed to Bodé newsletters and studied Bodé bibliographies. They wore their Cheech Wizard tattoos like stigmata, talked like Bodé characters and, if they were men, looked for ladies who looked like "Bodébroads."

Vaughn's resurrection would also come as no surprise to the less successful and less popular artists and writers of his generation: many of us despised his work, envied his success and were long since weary of the rabble-rousing lengths he went to to attract his audience. I didn't like or understand his work myself, but I had a Pepsi or something with him at a comic fan convention in 1969 and found him an amiable chap. Yet whether you loved him or hated him, it became impossible to talk about the self-proclaimed "comicbook messiah" without using his own religious hyperbole. "He was given to self-flagellation and sexual excesses like a medieval holy man," his friend Larry Todd said. "He was a saint, an Aquarian Age martyr."

And least surprised of all by his resurrection would have been Bodé himself. He died and was reborn many times; as a frustrated cartoonist, acidhead, transvestite, sex-change candidate and bondage freak. He was an artist who brought his message back from the furthest boundary of experience he could reach: a frontier where life and death had a lot in common. His touch, he promised, would set you free, and many say it did. Religion was his last trip and he died while meditating. But, as he wrote in one of his last comic books, *Deadbone*, "We join up to become alive RIGHT NOW, every time you do the Holy Trip of viewing our side of reality. Every time you read us in this Book we come again into yer head. Alive as any thought you ever thunk."

Bodé was born on the Cancer/Leo cusp at 2:22 PM July 22, 1941, to a Catholic family in Syracuse, New York. His father was an alcoholic who divorced his mother while Bodé was quite young; later he died of drink, which prejudiced Vaughn against liches for many years until he, himself, started drinking shortly before his death.

Young Vaughn was a sensitive loner who invented secret fantasy worlds in elaborate detail. "I've been drawing cartoons since I was five years old," he wrote. "In first grade I did my first cartoon work, 'Sammy the Garbage Man Goes to the Moon.' At seven I was doing a comic. By thirteen, I was deep into creating characters to populate my mind; Zif of Zaf, the mushroom



deserts, the mushytop soup company and the countries around it. At fifteen years old I had over two hundred cartoon characters with islands, maps and creatures of wondrous places to go. I invented a special cartoon studio in a country where all my characters would meet at special times. My inventions went on and on, moving by the weight of their own creative momentum: a spiraling desire to build another form of reality.

"I had no intention of sharing my secrets, though by then I had hopes of becoming a comic artist one day; but I would invent a 'front strip' for that—some set of characters that didn't mean all that much, a place I didn't go all the time."

He was obsessed, too, with Roman Catholic mysticism. "I tried to write a new bible when I was 13," he wrote in "Confessions of a Cartoon Gonorr." He longed to be a Jesuit priest when he realized, "Wow... [they] could even wear dresses!"

The artist of macho fantasies of warriors' deaths joined the army in 1957. It was an unhappy period. He hated the regimentation, had his first homosexual encounters and agonies of guilt over them, and walked around the base dreaming of himself in the cockpit of a jet fighter, strafing lizards. The army gave him a medical discharge in 1958, after Bodé had hyper-ventilated until passing out on several occasions. He entered Syracuse University and graduated with a degree in fine arts in 1960.

In 1961, Vaughn married his high school sweetheart. "We met in the ninth grade," Barbara Bodé recalls. "I saw him in science class and we met that way. He joined the army and we lost touch for about a year, and then we got back together when I was a senior and got married in 1961. Our son was born in 1963."

"They were divorced in 1971. Writing shortly before his death, Vaughn remembered: 'My wife and I... still love each other, and always will, happy in sharing our delightful son, Mark, as the contentment as he grows into his twelfth year like a young Lotus Bud.'"

Cartoonist Larry Todd, who became one of Vaughn's closest friends, met him around this time and recalled, "He looked just like Lee Harvey Oswald."

For six years, Bodé earned his living as an art director, illustrator and occasional cartoonist; his first strips began to appear in the Syracuse college paper. In 1968, Todd showed him R. Crumb's work in the East Village Other, and Vaughn mailed off a crateful of pages.

"I first saw Bodé's work lying around the EVO offices," recalls Trina Robbins, who started her own cartooning career on the New York underground tabloid's pages "His

art was being neglected, dog-eared and stained with coffee when it wasn't being used to clean grass on. His comix were not like anything I'd ever seen before—the dying lizards with butterflies coming from their ripped-open stomach made me cry. So I wrote to Vaughn, telling him how great I thought he was and how shabbily they were treating his work at EVO and how he should come down to the Lower East Side from Syracuse and handle it himself. He wrote back that he was coming right out and would I meet him at the EVO offices, so I did.

"He was plump and short-haired and apple-cheeked and incredibly straight. That day, all the underground cartoonists (not very many of them back then—besides Crumb, there were Artie Spiegelman, Kim Deitch and Spain of 'Trashman' fame) met Vaughn and were to a person blown out by his universe. Today, certain of them will deny this. Don't believe them. I was there.

"That apple-cheeked country boy was amazingly good at convincing decadent hippies that he knew what was good and what would sell. Of course, he was always right. In no time he had thought up and convinced EVO to publish the Gothic Blimp Works, the world's first underground comic newspaper. As editor of Gothic Blimp, he gave me my first big break by publishing me at a time when the other cartoonists didn't take me seriously, so I'm forever in his ghostly debt."

Vaughn quickly grew too big for the underground. There were rumors of deals with Stan Lee of Marvel Comics and Jim Warren, who publishes Vampirella and Famous Monsters, but none of them ever panned out until he hit it with Cavalier and later the National Lampoon.

"I moved to San Francisco," Trina reminisces, "and we lost touch until he showed up in 1972. He was thinner, his hair in golden ringlets, wearing body shirts and black leather pants and rings on every finger. At this point he was shaving his legs and chest hair. Now he was the cartoon messiah and started getting weirder quicker—and all the while getting more physically gorgeous with his rock-star hair in curls to his shoulders, hollow cheeks, blue fingernails, glitter. I suspected he had a perm but he denied it. He wore heavy drag with decorative handcuffs alone in his room, wouldn't see anyone while in costume."

"He had a red-haired belly dancer who put on corsets and tied him up; she called herself his 'whip mistress.' And he was eating Quaaludes and hanging out with spidery Quaalude people who revered him. After his death, one, all silvery, told me, 'Hey, Vaughn's on the fucking moon, man!'"

At the time of his first success with EVO and Gothic



He was the cartoon Messiah with his rock-star hair in curls to his shoulders, hollow cheeks, blue fingernails, glitter.

Blimp Works in the late Sixties, Vaughn was a familiar figure on the Lower East Side—hanging out, smoking grass, dropping acid, sipping egg creams at Gem Spa and rapping. He was not, at the time, a heavy dealer: he said it sapped his creative energies. He began to recognize his bisexuality, sadomasochism and other fetishes, and he wasn't too happy about them. Whatever the impact of his new consciousness and friends, however, one thing was certain: his "creativity" was going full-tilt. He rolled out page after page of lizard and wizard fantasies and hundreds of "Bodebroads"; he delivered ever deeper into the detailed private universes he loved so much to create.

And all the time, his cult was spreading among the folks who don't know much about Art but do know that they like graffiti, decals and anything you can paint on a car. His appeal spread upward, too. He began friendships with slick commercial cartoonists Jeff Jones (who draws the Lampoon's "Idyll" strip), Berni Wrightson and Jim Steranko, among others.

"Vaughn became a businessman, an administrator and an entrepreneur," recalled Steranko. "Vaughn was a 24-hour-a-day hustler who backed up his plans with a kind of perpetual determination—a complete about-face for a creative individual. He realized this was the only way to make his dreams materialize."

Bodé simply refused to allow anyone to alter his creations, and so would cooperate only with those whose policy was strictly hands-off. Consequently, his books are published by Northern Communications, Ltd., a small Vancouver company operated by Charles Law.

"Vaughn was very fearful of being ripped off," Law told me. "Therefore he really clear of what might have been really big deals for him. He might have become nationally syndicated, have had a movie made. The general arrangement Vaughn would make with anyone was 50-50. [An unbelievably generous arrangement by most standards!] He would supply his characters, subject to his approval, in return for 50 percent of the net. He wasn't making much. The production expenses could continue indefinitely so that the net ended up as 50 percent of nothing."

However, someone will eventually realize a nice profit from Vaughn. Law won't disclose sales figures but he reports that they are brisk. The Bodé cult is still growing.

After he broke into national magazines and divorced Barbara, he began to experiment with his own body. He would appear at parties in glitter drag, his eyes masked; then he got into his nervous system. According to his most



He died and was reborn many times: as a frustrated cartoonist, acidhead, transvestite, sex-change candidate and bondage freak.

ardent fan and official indexer, Lieutenant George W. Beahm of the U. S. Army (figure that one out). "He would get into a fad and drop everything else. He'd go to lectures. He'd really be feverishly involved. For instance, he did Silva Mind Control. He went to the guru Maharaj Ji. When he dropped out of that he went to something new."

His childhood desire to be a priest in the crowd a dress came back with his new-found religions. "I went to specialists in New York City in 1973," he wrote before his death, "despite their observation [that] out of a thousand patients we have helped you are not a transsexual. But at last [one] said, 'Maybe it'll do yer head good to have tits for a while.' In December of that year I went on full female hormone treatments. Five days into the experiment I became a full-fledged chemical eunuch."

Vaughn eventually chose to retain his masculinity and discontinued the injections. But though his body was no longer ambiguous, his attitude toward women was as contradictory as ever. He was capable of producing the "Bodebroads," sleek, smiling, conventionally sexy, but his archetypal femme is Belinda Bump, a prepubescent haridan with a child's body that drives men (and lizards) mad, a pair of engorged pimples in the mammary area and the vocabulary of a boss's mate. She appears again and again in sundry disguises, the child-woman, the bitchy Lolita, as if Vaughn couldn't escape her. An Oriental mystic might say Belinda represents Vaughn's inability to harmonize his yin and yang; a Jungian analyst might claim he couldn't reconcile his anima and animus, and Belinda was the end result.

Lynne Harris, a slender attractive New Jerseyan who met Vaughn in Paris late in 1974 and hasn't been able to forget him, has a third opinion. "He felt that women are very powerful," she said. "He always listened to the women around him. He felt they knew what was happening in the world, in the universe. His thing was mystical, earth-mother."

In Bodé's art, technical expertise isn't important. Oh, he was good with pen and brush, but he offered little except repetitiveness and ersatz stylization. No, Vaughn's craft was incidental, a means of expressing his obsessions with sex and violence.

In his earlier science fiction strips, he was preoccupied with bloodshed. Machines are much the most human elements in these stories; he would lovingly render a schematic of a spacecraft that was almost caddy, yet the

(continued on page 88)



# Your Nose and Cocaine

A medical guide to keeping your  
head high and your nose clean

Think of me—  
Me, whom the plainest women would despise—  
Me, with this nose of mine that marches on  
Before me by a quarter of an hour!

—Cyrano de Bergerac, *Act 1*

**P**oor Cyrano! He was as worried about the outside of his nose as cocaine users are about the inside of theirs. And perhaps there was more than a casual connection: after all, Cyrano and cocaine were the two most popular entertainments in turn-of-the-century Paris. While Cyrano took the nose problem out of the closet, it had been running on for some time, and has been ever since. Even today, millions of cocaine hypochondriacs sleep without rest, consumed with guilt and convinced that they have fused together, with corrosive coke, what God put asunder—namely, their nostrils.

In the 1890s, snorting cocaine wasn't only popular, it was legal, inexpensive and downright respectable. Long before this, snorting nicotine in the form of snuff had been the rage among European and Yankee gentry; the snuffbox business in its day was bigger than rolling paper. And the standard snort was clean, too.

(continued on page 84)

By John Graff



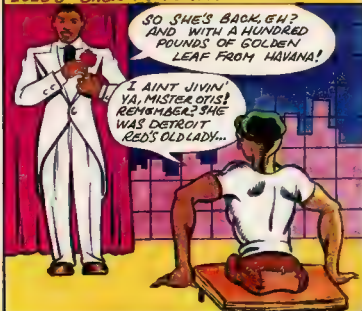
# LULU'S BACK IN TOWN



IF YOU TAKE THE A TRAIN / THAT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO GET TO HARLEM . . .



GOTTA SHINE MY SHOES AND SLICK MY HAIR!  
GOTTA GET MYSELF A BOUTONNIERE!  
LULU'S BACK IN TOWN.



SO SHE'S BACK, EH?  
AND WITH A HUNDRED  
POUNDS OF GOLDEN  
LEAF FROM HAVANA!

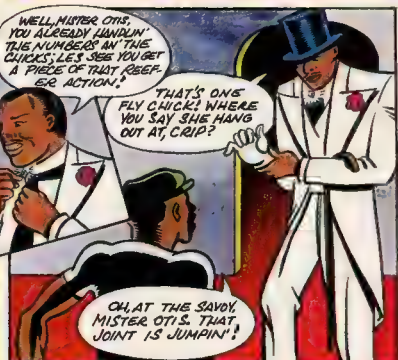
I AINT JIVIN'  
YA, MISTER OTIS!  
REMEMBER? SHE  
WAS DETROIT  
RED'S OLD LADY...



HE WAS THE RICHEST GAMBLER IN HARLEM  
TIL HE GOT SHOT AT CONNIE'S INN. HE SHO'  
MUSTA LEFT HER A LOTTA BREAD!



HE NEVER DID BELIEVE IN BANKS EITHER—  
STASHED IT IN HIS PAD, SO LULU JES' CAPPED THE  
BUNDLE AN' CUT OUT TWO STEPS AHEAD O' THE FEDS.

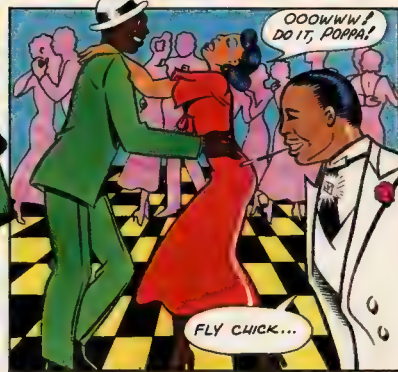


WELL, MISTER OTIS,  
YOU ALREADY HANDLIN'  
TUE NUMBERS AN' THE  
CHICKS; LET'S SEE YOU GET  
A PIECE OF THAT KEEF.  
ER, ACTION!

THAT'S ONE  
FLY CHICK! WHERE  
YOU SAY SHE HANG  
OUT AT, CRIP?

OH, AT THE SAVOY,  
MISTER OTIS. THAT  
JOINT IS JUMPIN'!

SAVOY, THE HOME OF SWEET ROMANCE!  
SAVOY, IT WAS YOU AT A GLANCE! SAVOY  
GIVES HAPPY FEET A CHANCE TO DANCE.

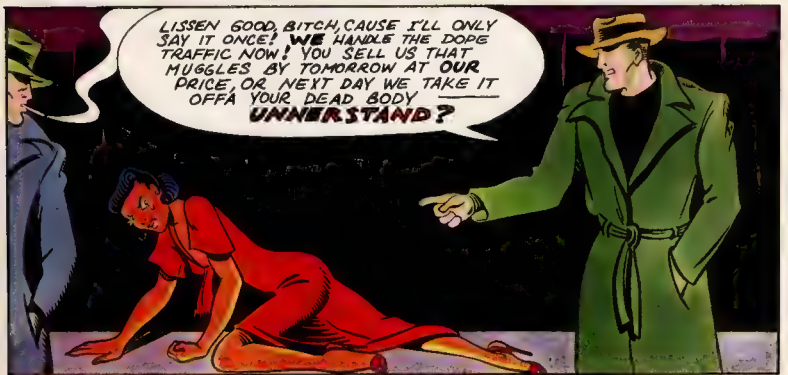
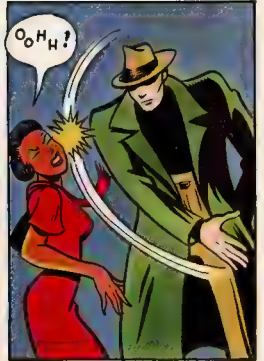
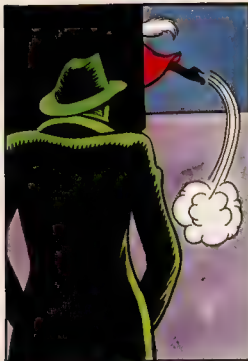


OOOWWW!  
DO IT, POPPA!

FLY CHICK...











LULU! LULU!  
YOU OKAY?



I TRIED TO WARN  
YOU... THEN FAYE  
USED TA RUN  
WITH **DUTCH**  
**SCHULTZ!**

LEMME GET  
YA HOME...



WELL...  
SEE YA...  
HEAR?

NO,  
WAIT...

COME  
ON IN...



YOU CAN TELL ALL MY PETS / ALL MY HARLEM  
COQUETTES / MISTER OTIS REGRETS THAT  
HE WON'T BE AROUND...



HEY PRETTY MOMMA, THIS STUFF'S HARD-  
CUTTIN' MEZZ! WHERE YOU STASH IT ALL?  
YOU AINT GOT MOREN' A DIME'S WORTH HERE!

OH, IT'S  
STASHED  
REAL GOOD...

A COQUETTE STILL BEARING LIPSTICK TRACES!



BABY, YOU MY OLD LADY NOW, YOU  
LET ME HANDLE THAT GAUGE!  
DON'T YOU FRET YOUR HEAD  
ABOUT THAT STUFF;  
MISTER OTIS TAKE  
CARE OF YOU!

AN AIRLINE  
TICKET TO ROMANTIC PLACES

HEY DADDY,  
LET'S NOT TALK  
ABOUT THAT NOW..

DREAMED ABOUT A REEFER FIVE FEET LONG / THE MIGHTY MEZZ BUT NOT TOO STRONG /  
YOU'LL BE HIGH BUT NOT FOR LONG / IF YOU'RE A VIPER.

LENOX  
AVE

ENOUGH, MAN!  
YOU WANT THE  
MUTA, I DELIVER!

YA WANT MORE, MISTER  
OTIS? YA DON'T BELIEVE  
WE MEAN IT?

HEY, HE DON'T  
BELIEVE WE MEAN  
IT! LES GIVE'IM  
SOME MORE!

HEY ROUGH,  
GIVE IT UP TOUGH,  
YOU'VE HAD IT  
LONG ENOUGH!

JACK, EYEBALL THE  
WREN ON YOUR LEFT  
RAISE... IS SHE SOME-  
WHERE OR IS SHE  
SOMEWHERE?

LULU, YOU  
A SOLID VIPER!

HEY LULUBELLE,  
WHATCHA PUTTIN'  
OUT?

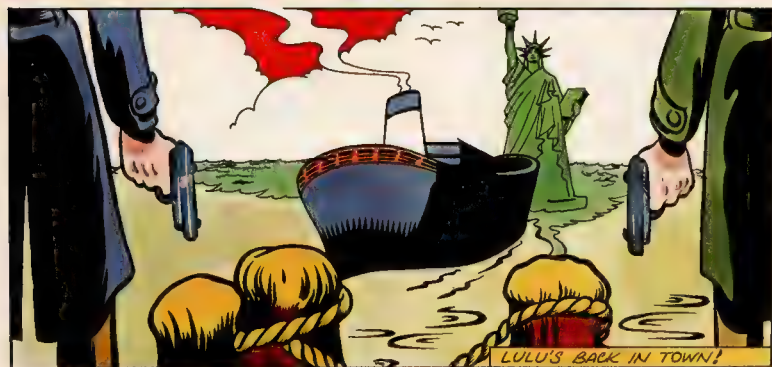
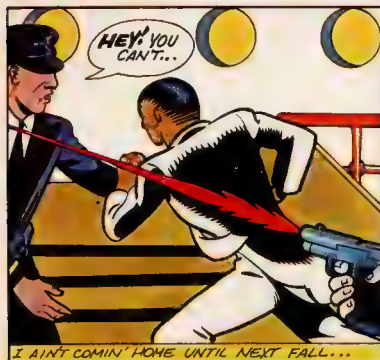
NOTHIN' BUT  
MY LAUNDRY!

AN' YOU GETS IT  
BACK STARCHED AN'  
CLEAN, SOLID MOMMA!  
LEMME PICK UP ON  
SOME O' THAT HARD-  
CUTTIN' GIVE YOU  
PUSHIN'!





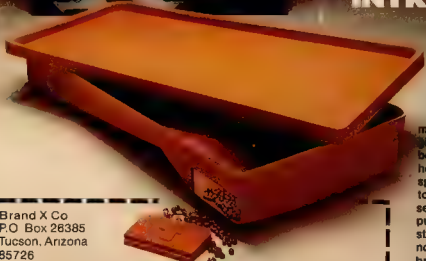






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No. Nothing is ever "almost legal." Especially marijuana. Last year alone 420,000 people were arrested for marijuana offenses. Of those, 90% were for simple possession.

But now a growing number of Americans are thinking seriously about changing the present marijuana laws. In fact, some laws have already been changed. The state of Oregon has successfully de-criminalized the personal use of marijuana. The American Bar Association, The National Council of Churches, Consumers' Union and The National Education Association have urged other states to do the same. An inevitable chain of events has begun. Become part of that change. Help us help you.

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# High Times NEWS



## Judge Predicts: Legalization Just Around the Corner

By Ellen Lokiec

Marijuana will be legal soon, predicted "Turn 'Em Loose" Bruce McMarion Wright, a New York City Civil Court judge and an active member of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

"We're trying to bring some sense to middle-class white Americans," said the 57-year-old, outspoken black judge of NORML's efforts. "Smoking marijuana is certainly not abnormal."

However, not all his colleagues feel the same way. "You can't have a rational discussion about it," according to Wright. Certain in his beliefs that marijuana will be legalized, the judge won't predict just when that will happen, but he's convinced that when the time comes, the move will be for more than just decriminalization. He believes that in the near future, grass will be sold "commercially, like cigarettes, although they might cost a little more; they haven't invented all the commercial ways of smoking tobacco as they have for marijuana," he said, adding, "I think it's a shame that it's not legal yet."

Wright is not a man to give up easily. "It may be a hard fight in a Catholic state such as this," he said, "but we will not let this defeat us. We have to keep fighting, like Frederick Douglas said, 'agitate, agitate, agitate.' If we can get enough people doing it perhaps we can get more power."

"In marijuana cases," explained the Manhattan judge, "we usually dismiss first offenses—even for large amounts. The kid has to promise to be on good behavior and then is dismissed automatically at the end of six months. This is the court's rather convoluted way of saying we don't think this is so bad; 'go ye and sin no more.'"

Dissatisfied and disturbed by the penal system, Judge Wright said he'd "always been reluctant to send people to prison, because

I've visited them, and I can't see putting people who use marijuana there. In cases in sentencing where you have to determine amounts of personal dosage, I always gave them a conditional discharge."

This attitude in sentencing earned Wright his nickname of "Turn 'Em Loose." Bruce several years back by the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. It may also have been a factor in Wright's transfer from criminal court to civil court almost two years ago, a change that Wright isn't entirely pleased with. "Here there is more money, criminal court is more freedom," is how he explained it.

Wright grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and after serving in the Army during World War II, attended New York Law School. "I traveled around the world for about ten years, I represented producers of jazz musicians and I've seen pushers of every possible kind. You could have your pick, they'd open up briefcases like salesmen and show you everything they had. Heroin and methadone scare the hell out of me. It's terrible; they destroyed so many musicians."

Wright is "bitterly opposed" to using methadone for treating heroin addicts; he thinks it is just substituting one addiction for another. "Heroin they call shit because it's the dregs," he said. "We have lots of cases where the guys make a buy and discover that they



Carrie Borel

Judge "Turn 'Em Loose" Bruce Wright supports legal pot.

have sugar. I send them to the consumer frauds bureau."

"I don't know what to think of cocaine," he continued. "I've had the wives of jazz musicians asking me to please get their husbands back on heroin—they don't have enough money to feed the kids when they're on cocaine. They say it's not addictive, but I assume anything is if you want it to be. For me, it's apple pie and ice cream."

A poet as well as a judge, Wright has had several volumes of his verse published; his poem "Woodstock Revisited" is a commentary on the second coming of Christ.

"wear bell-bottom pants and dirty old sneaks bring scag and smack and horse for freaks make us lay down in fields of grass with LSD while you say mass Let every dream go up in smoke with redolence of hash and coke

and once again we'll stone your head as you rejoin the Grateful Dead."

Wright's sense of humor is swift and his sense of justice absolute. "There goes the First Amendment," he said, immediately serious when told of a case in Florida where copies of *High Times* were confiscated along with paraphernalia. "If they raided my home, they'd find a copy of *High Times* magazine—at least one."

"There's an odium attached to smoking dope," Wright theorized. "For many years it was associated with blacks and Puerto Ricans, and maybe the respectable branch of society—if there is such a branch—just doesn't care to be associated with 'urban peasants.' It was thought that we were the only users of heroin until it spread to the white suburbs. I suggest that there will be a cure for heroin, too, once it spreads to Betty Ford."



## Acid Prankster Freed in Germany Congress Outraged

By P. J. Sampson

Congressman Les Aspin of Wisconsin has called for federal legislation that will "close the obvious loopholes" that permitted the G.I. who laced NATO coffee with LSD during maneuvers in Masweiler, Germany, last year to go free. The story began on February 26, 1975, during NATO's Wintex maneuvers. Some 40 G.I.'s in the communication center had just finished their coffee and were preparing for the day's maneuvers.

Shortly afterward, William L. Dowell, 40, a warrant officer, since retired, said, "I felt high suddenly. My thinking speeded up about 60 times its normal rate. I had to look down to see if my feet were moving as fast as I wanted them to." Dowell, a technician, noted he couldn't control his movements and waved at passing senior officers instead of saluting.

Another technician, whose name was withheld at his request because he is still in the service, said, "I was light-headed. I had cramps and was sick. My vision was blurred and I couldn't control my movements; others were laughing and crying—remember this was the central communications tent for the maneuver." He was hit so hard that five weeks later he claims, "I was awakened by high pitched voices. The voices came from little men walking on the floor and on my bed."

The men were ordered to keep the incident secret, but when the news leaked out about a year later, the U.S. Defense Department confirmed it.

In July 1975, the Pentagon and the Defense Department began investigating charges that an unidentified G.I. spiked the command center's coffee with LSD, causing the men to suffer hallucinations. They would attempt to try the culprit even though by then he was a civilian.

### CONGRESS REACTS

In June of this year, Representative Les Aspin said a legal loophole permitted the G.I. who spiked the coffee to escape without punishment and called for legislation to "close these obvious loopholes."

Aspin said Army Secretary Martin R. Hoffman wrote him that before an internal investigation could determine who the culprit was, he had been discharged and thus could not be touched by the military. Aspin added that "since the crime was committed in Germany, the Justice Department would not be able to prosecute either."

Army Secretary Hoffman said



Representative Les Aspin of Wisconsin called for legislation to "close these obvious loopholes" in the case of the ex-GI who allegedly spiked fellow officers' coffee with LSD and then wasn't prosecuted.

that he was offering the 24 G.I.'s who fell victim to the LSD-laced coffee, follow-up care similar to that offered to participants in the Army's drug experiments.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Command disclosed that an "undetermined amount of LSD was placed in a coffee urn by a soldier and that the urn was

refilled with coffee and subsequently consumed by duty personnel." Twenty-four G.I.'s were eventually identified as suffering "disturbances of the central and autonomic nervous system," 18 were hospitalized and the last was released on March 3, 1975.

U.S. Army Europe Medical Laboratory tests revealed the presence of lysergic acid diethylamide in the soldiers' urine, but before this was determined, the commanding officer ordered the area evacuated fearing some poison might be coming through the ventilating system.

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## Cocaine Confidential

### 183 Pounds Busted on Liberian Banana Boat

• A record-breaking 183 pounds of cocaine were confiscated by U.S. Customs officials from a banana boat docked in Tampa, Florida. The Liberian-registered ship, the *Ea*, had just sailed in from Colombia.

Officials believe there were eight smugglers involved in the case. On a predawn, morning surveillance, an agent had spotted the crew members passing garbage bags through the portholes and became suspicious. He chased the men through the docks, and they dropped the bags reportedly containing 170 pounds of coke as they ran. An additional 13 pounds turned up floating in the water near the boat several days after the initial raid.

The freighter has been under surveillance for several years because cocaine had been found on board before. "They keep changing captains, and we keep fining and penalizing them," said Customs Patrol Supervisor Richard Keating. "If it wasn't a foreign vessel, we could seize it outright."

• Six and one-half pounds of cocaine were reportedly seized by Customs agents at San Juan International airport from José Raul Botero, 44, a Colombian who lives in New York. The agents allegedly discovered the coke hidden in a false bottom of Botero's suitcase. Botero had flown to Puerto Rico from Colombia.

• An international dope-smuggling ring was smashed by federal and Santa Barbara, California, narcotics officers who arrested four men they allegedly discovered transporting cocaine and marijuana in a Cessna airplane from Mexico to Santa Barbara. Agents seized 13 ounces of cocaine and arrested Eugene McGinnis, 23, and Tom Powell, 24, in Lompoc; they later nabbed Michael Miroyan, 24, and David Yensel, 24, reportedly transferring 700 pounds of marijuana from the plane to a camper truck.

• Three Gainesville, Florida, residents—Jackie Preston Rice, 30, Johnny Lee Patterson, 27, and Annette Graham, 24—were arrested in conjunction with a year-long undercover investigation of major dealers, importers and suppliers of cocaine and heroin in the state. Gainesville Police Lieutenant Joe Kicklighter said the drug operation was a multimillion-dollar business supplying all cocaine out of Florida to states in the southeast and also handling major

distribution of heroin throughout Florida.

• Two Cranford, New Jersey, men were arrested for alleged possession of a large quantity of cocaine. Michael J. Mershon and Michael Stephen Martin, both 23, were seized on the Garden State Parkway by DEA agents who had followed Martin to Newark International Airport where he reportedly met Mershon bringing the cocaine in from Florida. Also seized was a pound of pot.

• Charles Alexander, 43, a former New York City bus driver, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for buying one-eighth of a kilo of cocaine from an undercover narc who had been one of his passengers. Upon pronouncing the maximum sentence, Bronx Supreme Court Justice William J. Drohan told Alexander, "People like you are sellers of an infection that creates zombies and brings misery to the families and friends of those living dead. Big dealers should get big sentences."

• Five persons from New York were arrested by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office for allegedly smuggling cocaine into the country from Colombia in baby shoes and diapers that were still on the infants. Four ounces of cocaine and a .25 caliber pistol were reportedly confiscated from Peter Marrero, 20. Also arrested were Lani Royce (a.k.a. DeKosko),



U.S. Customs Agent Bruce Meader uses cocaine tester on what agents say is the biggest cocaine seizure ever by Customs—183 pounds. A Customs agent said that he spotted plastic garbage bags being unloaded through a porthole of the Liberian banana boat *Ea*. When he approached, the men fled, dropping the bags in a field nearby. "It was pure, and I mean pure," one agent said after seven trash bags had been recovered.

21, and her boyfriend Lawrence LeMeir, 24. The bust started when an undercover narc allegedly bought eight ounces of coke from Eric Peterson, 23, who reportedly obtained it from Javier Zuluaga, 31, an illegal alien from Colombia.

• Six suspects were seized by police in connection with a cocaine bust at a home in Costa Mesa, California. The six suspects are Vernon Louis Otero, 26, and his 16-year-old wife, Edward Wayne Cobb, who owned the house; Mark Baker Pendroy; Ralph Pierpont Morgan, III, and Debra Kay Hancock. Narcs believe there was a seventh suspect involved in the raid, which reportedly turned up nearly two pounds of cocaine and

a number of peyote buttons.

• Peter Gary Schmit, 27, of Washington, was arrested for possession of 50 grams of cocaine and 45,000 tablets of amphetamines. According to testimony, Schmit's suitcase filled with the drugs was found on a curb by two women. Schmit denied any knowledge of the substances.

• Jean Kosanovich, United States citizen, was sentenced to one year in jail in Colombia on charges of cocaine smuggling. Kosanovich was arrested at Bogotá's Galeao Airport with a pound of cocaine on her body, while trying to catch a flight back to the States.

(continued on page 78)



## Cocaine Confidential

(continued from page 77)

- Clarence Lee Cline, Jr., 26, of Phoenix, Arizona, thought his only problem was the burglar in his apartment, but when he called for help, things took a turn for the worse. Police who answered his call found Cline brandishing a sword and arrested him after reportedly discovering one-quarter ounce of cocaine and six ounces of weed in his apartment.
- Iowa narcs claim they bagged 12½ ounces of cocaine after a high-speed car chase that led to the arrest of John Albert Danielson and George William Morris, both 34, near Des Moines. Iowa Morris led the narcs through a cornfield, but was nabbed when his car swerved into a grove of trees.
- A raid on a Toronto apartment reportedly netted 332 grams of cocaine and some laboratory equipment. Arrested on charges of possession with intention of trafficking were Robert Lee Harris, 33, Abigail Faith Shukster, 18, and Albert Houston, 35.



Federal narc William Norworthy, the air and sea supervisor for the DIA in Miami, Florida, demonstrates how cocaine was concealed in an airplane engine that was seized after arriving at Miami for repairs.

Wide World

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## Colombian Justice Minister Declares Marijuana "Magnificent Commerce"

BOGOTÁ—Colombian Minister of Justice, Dr. Samuel Hoyes Arango, who was chiefly responsible for the March decree that reduced the fine and jail sentence for those caught with up to 10 grams of hashish or 28 grams of marijuana, has been discussing the idea of total legalization with Colombian legislators so that the government can control the flow of marijuana.

### Bogotá's "Decrim" Law Still Holds Jail Sentence

BOGOTÁ—Colombia's so-called "decriminalization law" No. 701, the March Decree, which was to have "decriminalized the use and possession of up to 28 grams of marijuana and 10 grams of hashish, is not considered to be a proper marijuana decriminalization law by U.S. standards.

After studying the March Decree, NORML director Keith Stroup said, "In order for a marijuana decrim law to exist in America, it must insure that the smoker

has no arrest record and no jail sentence. This is not the case under the Colombian law."

Those arrested under Colombia's March Decree are subject to having a record of their arrest kept by Colombian officials as well as facing a possible jail sentence of up to two years and a fine of up to \$30. Those caught with more than 10 grams of hashish or 28 grams of marijuana face fines of up to \$15,000 and a possible 12-year prison term.

"The production of marijuana and its consequent exportation," said Dr. Hoyes Arango in a television interview, "creates for us a problem that is, in my opinion, much more simple than the simple use of marijuana. The day that marijuana becomes legalized in Colombia, the mafias would be affected in the sense that they would no longer have this mag-

nificent commerce."

In an attempt to qualify the government's position, Dr. Hoyes Arango stated, "Now don't go around saying that I'm making a defense of marijuana. Nevertheless, it's very probable and possible that marijuana may be less damaging than these other drugs so easy to buy in Colombian drugstores."

The Colombian Ministry of Justice enacted law 701 after the National Council on Narcotics, which makes the determination of personal marijuana-hashish dosages based on legal and medical evaluation, stated that Colombia's judges were not following a unified standard in dope trials.

Initial Reuters and New York

Times reports out of Colombia had erroneously termed the March Decree a decriminalization law. Foreigners are still subject to arrest under the seven-month-old law. At the moment, there are more than 300 Americans in Colombian jails for alleged possession of marijuana as well as cocaine.

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(continued from page 39)

police will be "leaning harder" on people involved with marijuana

- Two police officers and a fireman were arrested and charged with possession of marijuana for distribution. The arrests were made after a raid on policeman Andrew Robert Witherspoon's apartment in Charleston, South Carolina, supposedly turned up 38 ounces of grass. Witherspoon, 23, was suspended from the police department. Arrested with Witherspoon were Janie D. Fripp, 26,

and Floyd Alexander Pressley, 20. Fripp, a policewoman for only a few weeks when the bust was made, resigned her post. Pressley was suspended from duty by the fire department

- A 22-year old Montreal woman, Krista Gurd, who tried to carry 15 pounds of hashish from Amsterdam past Customs officials at Toronto International Airport in order to "test [her] fate" was spotted by officials and arrested

- Five persons were arrested in connection with a Halifax, Nova Scotia, Royal Canadian Mounted Police seizure of 50 pounds of

(continued on page 82)



Carrollton, Georgia, police view approximately 40 pounds of weed that had been confiscated in a raid on a North Lakeshore Drive home. Charged with violating the Georgia Controlled Substances Act were Edwin Birge, 22, Barry Aiken, 21, and David Lee Banister, 22.



Carroll County Georgian

Becky Chaney

Police Officer Charles Bartosh checks some of the 900 pounds of grass seized from a twin-engine Piper Aztec that landed at Kickapoo Airport in Wichita Falls, Texas. Arrested in connection with the alleged smuggling operation were Kenneth Merrell Marlar, 37, charged with possession of more than four ounces of marijuana, and Charles Wayne Anderson, 26, charged with possession of more than six ounces. The police, who say they expected the shipment of grass, arrested the men after they reportedly had loaded the grass, packed in trash bags, into a 1974 Chevy pickup truck.

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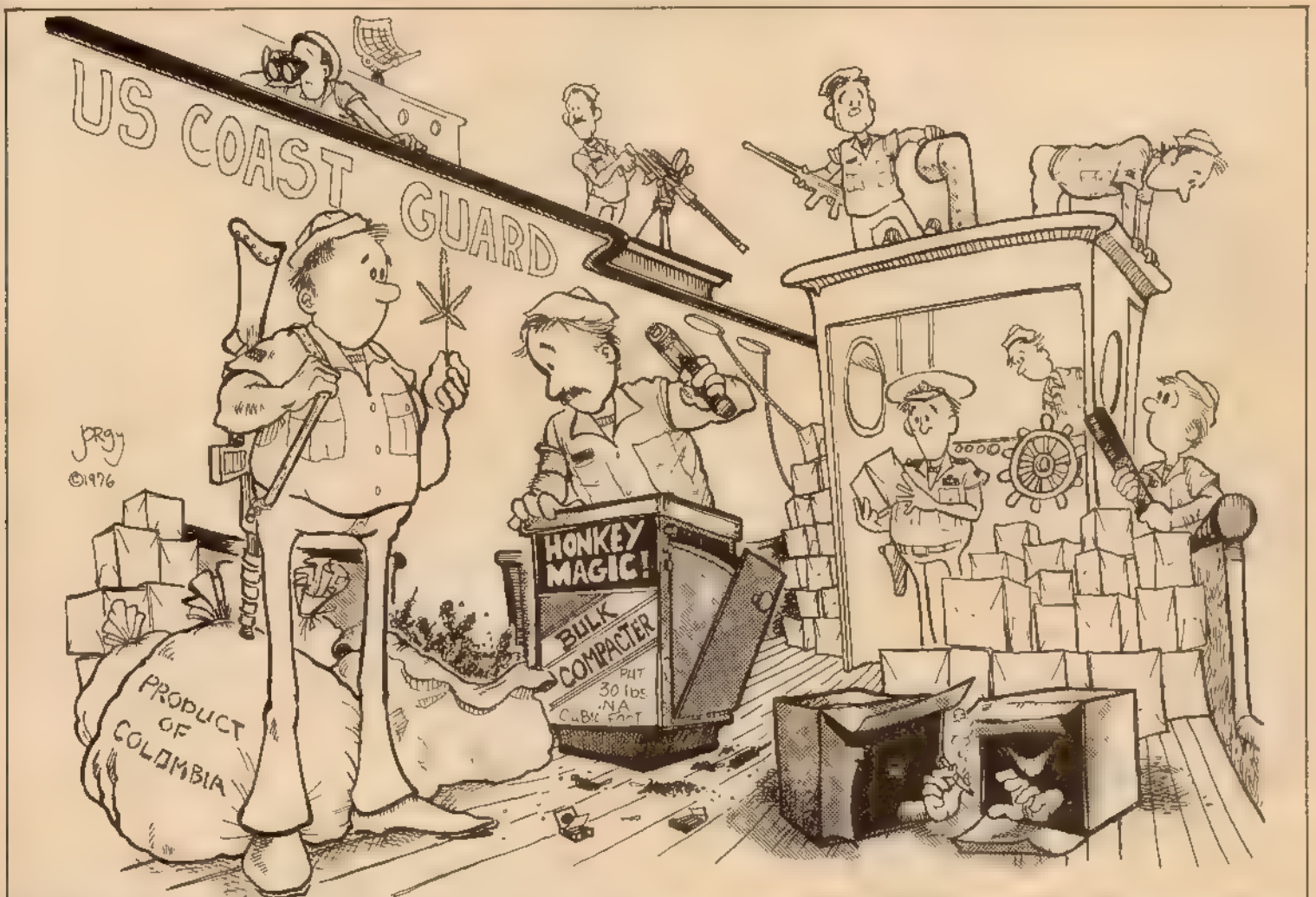
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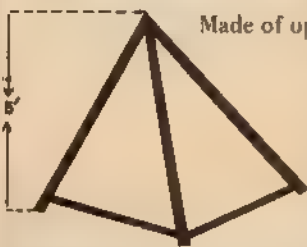
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Sears, Roebuck household garbage compactors are being used by smugglers in the Caribbean to compress marijuana into tight bricks for easier shipping. The Sears, Roebuck unit, which is designed to compact kitchen garbage with 3,000 pounds of pressure per square inch, facilitates storage as well as giving the grass more weight in case a cargo is thrown overboard.

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Diligence*, which patrols the waters off Key West, Florida, confirmed the garbage compactors' long-standing use when it seized a 150-pound cargo of pot along with a Sears, Roebuck Kenmore garbage compactor last May.

As an indication of the new, expanding market for compactors, the nation's two top manufacturers, General Electric and Sears, Roebuck, sold twice as many of the units in 1976 as in 1975.

Sears Executive A. James Miller, who is in charge of the Sears Trash Compactor, told *High Times*, "Any customer looks at the unit's features, ours has lock switches, deodorizing capabilities and can store up to a week's worth of garbage with no problem." The Sears model holds 20 to 30 pounds of compressed garbage, the equivalent of three 20-gallon cans.

"Retailwise, Sears has the market," said a spokesman for General Electric who wished to remain anonymous. "However, we're the leaders in garbage compactor engineering and technology and



Sales of Sears, Roebuck household garbage compactors, used to hide and compress marijuana, have doubled in the past year.

foresee no basic change in design or capabilities. It's a growing market, and the product is good for the environment. The unit could be used to compact marijuana—that's certainly unique."



## High Crimes

(continued from page 80)

hash oil. RCMP officials stated that there were definite "international overtones" to the case. The five men, who come from Canada, Greece, Holland and Ireland are Slavko Negulic, William Douglas LaPoint, 23, Theodore Papageorgiou, 24, Sean Joseph Crowe, 21, and Patrick Joseph Quirke, 28; they were charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking.

- U.S. Border Patrol agents in the desert area of Anapra, Texas, claim to have found 1,360 pounds of pot, which they said had been left there for quite some time. The marijuana was packed in 17 bags of about 80 pounds each, and the agents turned them over to the local DEA office.

- A shipment of 200 pounds of weed reportedly bound for New Mexico was seized by Tulsa, Oklahoma, narcs who say they broke a major connection between Tulsa and New Mexico dealers Stephen Tarter, 19, of Albuquerque, and Larry Beck, 25, of Tulsa, were charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. Richard Thomas Oliver, 23, was charged with "unlawful cultivation of marijuana." Narcs

also arrested an unidentified man whom they believe to be the Tulsa connection.

- Berkeley County, South Carolina, deputies destroyed seven marijuana patches in nearby woods, with a total of over a thousand plants. The largest patch was reported to be 30 feet long by 30 feet wide, and the plant grew as tall as 2½ feet. The officers also destroyed two seedbeds and confiscated three hoes, five buckets, two shovels, three fertilizer bags and a rake. The county had been famous during Prohibition for producing bootleg whiskey.

- Ontario narcs reportedly seized 35 pounds of marijuana in a raid on three homes and a garage in the city. Arrested on a variety of dope charges were Joseph Gunther Thomas, 20, Rena Margaret Bennett, 18, Richard Frederick Goodine, 21, and James Allan Wild, 19.

- Robert Blackbeard, 22, of Ontario, was found guilty by a Canadian court of hashish trafficking. Canadian narcs found a total of 1,834 grams of hash stashed in shoes and coats that had been sent to him from Afghanistan. Blackbeard said that he had no idea who sent the articles to him or for what purpose. When agents searched his room, they turned up a bag of marijuana, two hash pipes, a scale that he said was used to weigh

letters and an envelope mailed from Afghanistan sent to his Ontario address.

- The purchase of 94 pounds of grass by Morris County, New Jersey, narcs led to the arrest of four men who allegedly transported the load from New Mexico to northern New Jersey. The four men are David English, 23, Nelson Tweer, 30, Jon Thomas, 19, and his brother Lewis, 26.

- Thirteen persons were arrested in London in connection with what police dubbed an international hashish trafficking ring. About 30 pounds of hashish were allegedly shipped from Bombay to Montreal via London and Nassau. The 13 persons are: Elizabeth Johnston Novess, 25, and Fred Novess, 33, of Cote des Neiges, Donald Mason, 33, David Glenworth, 34, Ashly Mae Abbott, 27, Benjamin Kramer, 26, John Unger, 25, Era Bennett, 28, David Bercovitch, 30, and Howard Millstein, 30, all from Canada; Toti Motsinger, 22, of Michigan, Michael Kelley, 28, of Georgia; and Philip Powell, 22, of Australia.

- An unidentified 25-year-old Seattle man was charged with allegedly selling an undisclosed amount of acid to two undercover narcs in an unmarked car parked in front of a city precinct house. Describing the incident as "hi-

larious" and "unbelievable," police narc Dan Stokke said, "I've had easy arrests before, but not in front of the police station."

- Penelope Twitchin, 24, of Liverpool, England, was sentenced to seven years for importing 14 pounds of hashish into Canada from Bombay, India. Upon pronouncement of the verdict, Twitchin burst into tears. The alleged hash was found in false panels of the two suitcases she was carrying by Customs officials at Toronto International Airport. According to her testimony, Twitchin said that a man she met in Bombay offered her a free holiday in Toronto if she carried the two suitcases for him.

- Reports out of London state that the Rolling Stones are being used as "unknowing" couriers of marijuana, hashish and cocaine across Europe. Police have discovered stashes in sound equipment used on the band's recent European tour as well as a stash of an undisclosed substance in Keith Richard's Bentley.

Fleet Street papers say that officials suspect members of the Stones were unaware of the cache, explaining that "police and Customs men know drug gangs sometimes use pop groups' amplifiers and instruments to smuggle cannabis."



DEA agents kept a close watch as plastic- and burlap-wrapped bags of Colombian pot were unloaded from a van and stacked for burning at a Hancock County borrow pit off Mississippi Highway 43. An agent kept a tally as the sacks were tossed out of the van; the total was 421.



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tion is to reapply the drug to relieve the swelling and discomfort. This vicious cycle leads to *rinitis medicamentosa*, a chronic inflammation from overuse of nasal decongestants. If not remedied, it can lead to lesions and ulcerations of the mucosal linings and eventually to perforation of the nasal septum.

These dangers are compounded by cocaine's subtly attractive psychoactive properties. Yet most of today's users never have the cash to buy enough good coke to develop problems from continual overindulgence. Instead, contemporary tooters are plagued by different, but potentially more dangerous, hazards—ignorance, adulterants and hygienic neglect. Still, information and nasal cleaning can all but eliminate these risks.

**T**oday's cokeheads are haunted by visions of Teflon or stainless steel septums, but very few have actual cause for alarm, and even these few can reduce the odds of such horrors with common sense, proper hygiene and a refusal to compromise on the quality of their flake.

First of all, everyone knows that neglecting to clean the mouth after meals will inevitably result in a visit to the dentist. The same crystalline logic applies to the ingestion of supranutritional substances via the nose. Any coker who doesn't care for his or her horn after an evening of heavy blowing is in for trouble. Yogis have developed the best way of keeping your nose clean: the nasal douche.

To a glass of lukewarm water, add a teaspoonful of common salt and stir well.

With the use of a nasal douche which is available at any drugstore, pour a small portion of the salt water through one nostril, closing the other with the thumb. Raise the head and allow the water to flow down to the throat and out of the mouth. Do not try to inhale the water as it brings an unpleasant sensation. Just allow it to flow to the mouth naturally by keeping the head raised, then spit it out.


At this point, a small quantity of water will remain in the nasal passage, which must be blown out by a forced expiration.

This process should be repeated three times with each nostril.

*from The Complete Illustrated Book of Yogi by Swami Vishnu-devananda*

Learning to relax and let the water flow gently through the passages and out the mouth takes a little practice. Hydrophobes who can't get past the sensation of drowning that this method entails can accomplish almost the same results with an ordinary eyedropper or atomizer filled with saline solution, repeating as often as seems necessary. The object is to dissolve

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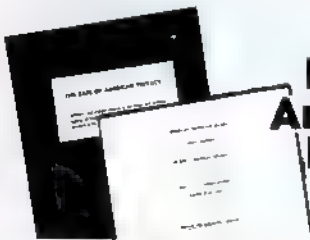
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accumulated residues and flush them out so the tissue can resume its normal function as quickly as possible.

The same hygienic standards maintained for food and eating utensils should also be imposed on coke and its paraphernalia. Crusty dollar bills, rusty razor blades and saliva-smear mirrors are not only a reflection on the host, but may also contain a variety of contagions themselves.

The purer the coke, the less hazardous it is. Underground products rarely approach pharmaceutical purity and uniformity, not to mention price. An ounce of illicit coke, often well cut already, goes for up to \$2,000 in the U.S. Pharmaceutical quality sells wholesale to medical centers for \$20 an ounce. Consumers thus owe it to themselves to become stubborn judges of quality.

The best way to deal with adulterants is to avoid them. The strong vasoconstricting effect of cocaine hypersensitizes the already delicate mucosal lining and renders it vulnerable to all adulterants. So many different substances are used for cuts that it's virtually impossible to generalize. For the same reason, there is little clinical data on the subject. The only agreement is that no cut is the least harmful of all. Pure, pulverized cocaine hydrochloride dissolves completely on the nasal mucosa, is absorbed rapidly into the bloodstream and, within a few hours, not a trace of it can be detected.

Probably the unkindest cut of all is quinine. It is especially dangerous when injected, because it can kill within minutes by pulmonary edema (causing the lungs to fill with fluid). Due to official apathy toward drug users, it took over 20 years for medical research to find out that many heroin ODs have actually been caused by quinine since it began to be used as a cut in the Forties. Quinine interferes with the cocaine high and, if snorted unknowingly for just a few days, causes vision and breathing problems, ringing in the ears and extraordinary wear on the nasal passages.

If *rhinitis medicamentosa* does develop, the best thing to do is abstain from placing anything foreign into the nose. Douching with a mild saline solution, one of the body's own constituents, will help soothe the irritated tissue and promote healing. Having a vaporizer in the room will also provide some relief by increasing the moisture content of the air passing over the dry, swollen membranes. In time, the swelling will go down, and the condition of the tissue will return to normal. If breathing is seriously impaired, a physician will usually recommend an oral antihistamine.

More serious problems result from prolonged vasoconstriction. With their supply of blood cut off, the cells in the tissue die and slough off, leaving a lesion or tear in the membrane. Fewer and

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fewer cells are reproduced by the tissue to replace those lost due to lack of blood, and in time the necrosis, or death of tissue, affects the connective tissue beneath the surface. Eventually a smooth, concave crater forms. This second stage is called ulceration. Allowed to continue, the deterioration reaches the periseptum, the layer of cells covering the septum, and once through it, the septum itself. Gradually, the cartilaginous septum wears away too, leaving a hole. These last phases are very rare. It takes months or years of dedicated neglect for such conditions to develop.

Perhaps the best preventive medical advice for coke users comes from the ancient coca cults of the Andes, where natives have been using the leaf for centuries. Although snorting the alkaloid is not to be compared with masticating the leaves, if current fans would adopt the Indians' attitude toward ingesting coca, patterns of usage might change and preclude pathology.

**C**oca is part of the daily diet of the Andean Indians. They use it as a source of strength and endurance that permits them to carry on their physical or mental activities with less food and rest. Their use is tempered with purpose and necessity, and they gauge their consumption accordingly. To them, coca is not so much a stimulant as a much-needed refreshment. On special, usually spiritual occasions, they may consume larger quantities to evoke a euphoric, trancelike state.

With cocaine, however, it's not as easy to distinguish the physical, mental and psychic levels of dosage. We of the Northern Hemisphere are just beginning to appreciate the power of coca. By isolating the active principle, technology has also succeeded in isolating us from the refinements of the Andean coca customs.

Besides taking care of our beaks, the best precaution we can take is to try to prevent bodily resources from being depleted while using coke. Regular vitamin supplements will help prevent malnutrition. Vitamin C is especially important, as this nutrient is rapidly used up in supporting an accelerated metabolism.

Users should try to force themselves to eat a balanced diet to maintain their energy level. Drinking alcohol and doing coke is a bad idea: cocaine dehydrates tissues, allowing the alcohol to be absorbed very fast and creating a danger of poisoning. Water and fruit juices should be taken during a run in any case, but are very important if you're boozing, too.

Though all these precautions will still be important, cocaine's eventual legalization will certainly benefit America's nasal health. Users unaccustomed to purity will have to guard against the greater danger of an overdose, but refined flake will be far less damaging to tender membranes than today's adulterated foot.

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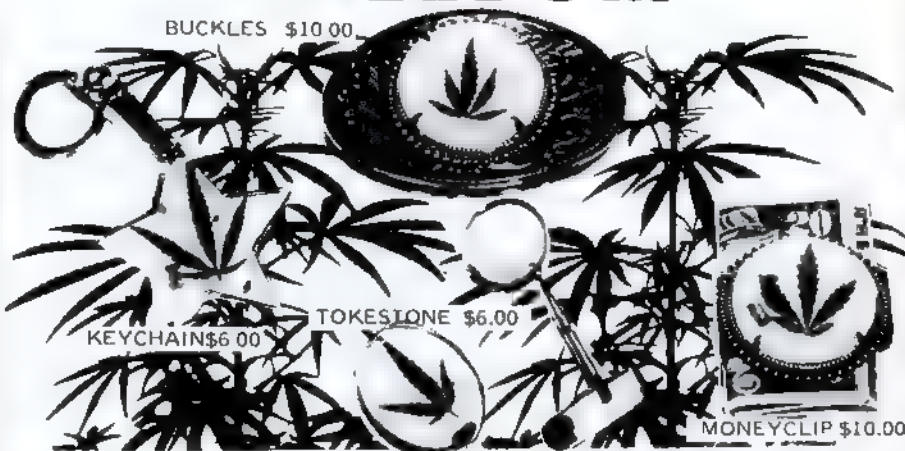
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# The Death of the Cheech Wizard

(continued from page 63)

humans and aliens were ugly, selfish and violent. In 1969, he was awarded the Hugo, the SF world's equivalent of the Oscar. In 1970, he began a strip called "Sunpot" for *Galaxy*, an SF pulp. Ejler Jakobsson, *Galaxy's* editor at the time, soon abandoned the strip without explanation. An educated guess would be that science fiction fans, especially the older breed, are notoriously conservative and shuddered at Bodé dialogue like, "Ikay nectar nipples, dis is Dr. Electric on da horn." Bodé attacked the English language—not as Joyce did, to explore possibilities, but apparently simply to rip out the mother tongue and stomp it into the dust. His dialogue alienated the more intellectual fans, but thousands who have hailed him as a genius were probably responding to precisely this facet of his work.

Bodé did not remain content to limn futuristic mayhem. His drawings began to teem with lusty lizards; the lizard motif runs through his entire canon—is, in fact, his central symbol. His lizards seldom manage to ball the women they long for; they can't. A Bodé lizard tells a nubile teenager, "We don't got no reproductive organs ya know..." Still, they behave like frat boys fresh from a back-seat conquest. Vaughn's high school nickname was Lizard.

His apparent alter ego, the Cheech Wizard, was the "comicbook messiah" of the thankless lizards. The Cheech's face and torso are perpetually hidden by a drooping sorcerer's hat like the one Mickey Mouse wore in *Fantasia*, but minus starch; the Wizard's hat resembles an unambitious phallus. The Cheech Wizard's philosophy was a message of self-acceptance plus the impulse to spread the faith, or, as Bodé characteristically put it, "If a perverted thought or act doesn't move his cartoon peers and pals, then physical action may be necessary, i.e., KICK DA DUDE IN DA BALLS!" Which was precisely what Cheech did to "da Bodé" when the maestro appeared in his own *Lampoon* strip (December 1973) to show the Wizard his brother Vince's painting, now available as a poster, known as "The Adoration of Vaughn Bodé." It showed Vaughn as Christ with tits in yoga toga drag. He stands beneath an arch in which two cocks, supported by Bodébreads, ejaculate the yin-yang symbol. On the base of the left column is inscribed "Bodhisattva"; on the right is "Hierophant," a priest or teacher of any religious mystery. Vaughn's right hand is raised in a Buddhist blessing; his left enfolds a stage mike, symbol of his quest for pop-star status. On his forehead, in the traditional neigh-

borhood of the mystical Third Eye, there is a triangle, the symbol of his "marriage to God." "If they had queers on Mars," P. J. O'Rourke, a *National Lampoon* editor, said at the time, "that's what Bodé would look like."

"The Adoration" was soon followed by "Rubber Balloons," a "light" bondage and dominance strip in *Cavalier*, and *Schizophrenia*, Vaughn's first public avowal of his bisexuality. *Schizophrenia* is a strange, underground comic book published in San Francisco. The top three-quarters of the cover show the Cheech Wizard advising us to "suck my turnip." The bottom quarter is a photograph of Vaughn himself, starkly labeled Bodé. In the photo, Vaughn's nails are manicured and he is wearing feminine jewelry, what appears to be a sheath and, possibly, cosmetics. The rest of the magazine has an identical format, with the Cheech Wizard episode at the top and photographs of Vaughn in drag, dancing and striking poses, at the bottom.

"How do you tell your world?" he demands, his wrist blatantly limp. "Your mother, your wife, your son, your friends. How do you tell them all who you are... how do you tell yourself you got warps all through your goddam head?" Now he had published a soliloquy on the theory and practice of his fetishes. He later wrote, "I did it to get beyond that God-damned Guilt that clings to my Psychic Being."

Finally, there came the "Confessions of a Cartoon Goorool." Bodé's three-page autobiographical statement ran on and on, like a kid from the Midwest describing a first encounter with high-octane, South American marijuana: "wizard, Hierophant, a Western BODESATTVA, TAO-TOON-FOOL, High Consciousness Comedian, and Cartoon GOOROO. I am, da' BODE, himself, Who thinks, draws, writes, fuks [sic], and performs the glitter "Magick Work" of big time Laughing Light, an that ain't no shit!"

"Jesus, ain't nobody ever told me that when you go inside and inflame yer chakras, hone up, and sandpaper down your mind to incredible levels of human sensitivity, ain't nobody told me you get the whole fuckin' schmeer all across the mindboard..."

"Trying to cope and heal all alone in a Vacuum of ignorant handicaps, rampant Transvestism, and its predictable 'Kinsey-port Purges,' aggressive Hetero and Homosexual drives, and a Rainbow of fetishes from Rubber to Boots! FUK IT! It all caused me such tons of Social Guilt, I got caught deep into the great dark scenarios of Sado-Masochistic Death games from little boy to grown man. Violent, symbolic, death plays not only with me, The Autosexual, but with my Women, and even some boyfriends, too..." and more. Then he recounts the slow stages of his liberation. Then he

offers it to us, "Watch Me! Use ME to set yourself free. No more GUILT. I Made It. So Can YOU."

**B**y 1973, Bodé had all but abandoned the printed page and was devoting his energies to the high-energy performance he called "cartoon concerts." He stood to the side of a stage, a baby spot on him, aglitter with the sequins on his eyes and skintight leather suit, with a slide projector flashing his cartoons on the screen as Vaughn stretched his vocal chords to produce the voices of the lizards, the Cheech Wizard, Belinda Bump, the whole Bodé pantheon. An estimated 25,000 saw these shows. He performed them in places ranging from comix conventions to college classrooms to the Louvre: the glitter rock star of graphics.

Vaughn gave over 50 concerts. The show won him an award at the International Comics Convention in Lucca, Italy, the Kentucky Derby of the hundreds of yearly comix conventions. Like Lenny Bruce, Vaughn altered his act from day to day. The concert survives under Vince's management with actors and Vaughn's friends doing the schticks.

Cartoonists, especially underground cartoonists, are not always the most public of people. Robert Crumb is so reclusive he's almost occult. But Bodé took to the stage, like Dickens, Mark Twain and Dylan Thomas, not only because the printed page couldn't pay him well enough, but because it couldn't display him as he needed to be displayed. Cartoon Concerts, on the other hand, brought him right into the midst of a horde of pre-sold, stone Bodé fans who could accept him, body and soul, right on the spot; and the further tricked out in drag he was, the more they loved him.

I actually met a Bodé fan at a Greenwich Village party recently. This in itself is amazing because Village parties can usually be counted on to contain a lot of people who wouldn't know Bodé from a hole in the ground, plus at least one editor who published him without being able to say exactly why, but a Bodé fan, never. But there he was, a towheaded youngster who looked like Tom Sawyer and sported a Cheech Wizard tattoo, a tattoo for Chrissake, bright and glowing, all drooping hat and big green feet.

His name is Cliff Hodston, it develops, and he is a technician for a rock group called Fire Ballet. He is willing to explain Vaughn's appeal, and I listen attentively, for I expect this apparition to vanish in a puff of smoke and go back to Long Island in a pumpkin on the stroke of midnight.

"The Wizard just struck a chord in me," Cliff says. "It's sort of the evil little being inside me, that evil character who would like to come out and treat everybody else like dirt. He's always kicking people in the nuts and balling tree stumps. Whatever he can do to get his ego gratified. I



think people respond to the recognition of that themselves and laugh because they're recognizing a part of themselves."

There it is. Vaughn used his horribly mutilated English and a light, almost Disneylike graphic style to portray ghastly violence and sexual frustration. He drew, then performed, the incoherent violence and frustration that seethe inarticulately within a million souls who have not the benefit of, shall we say, esthetic sophistication. "Slow minds will especially enjoy [Bodé's] surface message," one admirer wrote. "junkies will want to mainline it. And speeders will scramble to the depths of its Hessian-like Hell."

And because he lived and died their violence and their frustration, Vaughn became their martyr and their saint. He was James Dean without tears, Alice Cooper for real. He was television and street acid. And he died his idiotic, twisted death for the usual reason. He owed it to his public.

In the evidence, Vaughn Bodé sounds like the stupidest hippie who ever lived; the manner of his dying, not even his fans will deny, was the dumbest hippie death on record, a classic. I have found, among cultured folk who knew of his work, none but critics of it, and nothing but off-the-wall nonentities like Lieutenant Beahm and Cliff Hodston have emerged to sputter forth their reasons for adoring him. Yet his success was genuine by any professional standard; and thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands, will sport Cheech Wizard tattoos long after Mr. Natural and the Freak Brothers are forgotten. I have never heard anyone bad-rap Vaughn himself, while his women remember him tenderly. His best friends—Jeff Jones, Berni Wrightson, Jim Steranko, the top names, mind you, in pro comix—thought him one of the Good People. I met him once and sort of liked him. Even hard-core Bodé cultists, for all the violence and erotic confusion Vaughn believed they contained, are probably nice, simple, decent, existentially tormented folks you wouldn't mind having a few brews with.

Despite the gaudy clothes and mascara, Vaughn was quiet and introverted. "He wasn't stand-offish," Lynne Harris said. "He just waited for the other person to respond first. He'd be able to give a lot of himself in a conversation, to anyone."

"He had many different friends, mostly average, everyday Joes," Vince Bodé actually told me. "He liked people into religious trips, yoga, Hare Krishnas. He liked people with stories to tell. He'd befriend anyone with a story to tell, whether a bum or a millionaire."

Vaughn had a few genuinely close friends, to whom he was intensely loyal. He did not try to convert them to the cult of the comicbook messiah or burden them with shoptalk. He'd sit quietly,

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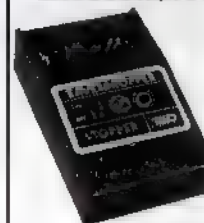
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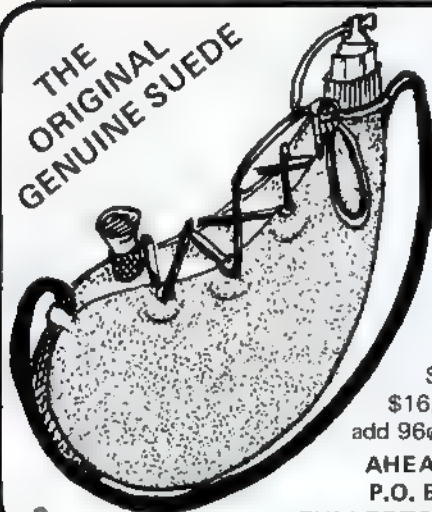
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occasionally contributing to the conversation. The gab and the gaud were for the public.

If you look at any of his work, you'll realize it's all either sexually oriented, or oriented toward the desire to die," said Vince Bodé. Vaughn felt he could control death and kept a "suicide gun" around to prove it to himself. "He had a terrific death wish. He really got off thinking about death."

In August of 1974, Vaughn moved to a rented house—he said it was a potato—in San Francisco's retirement neighborhood, the Sunset district. Three months later he met his lover, Dianne. In March 1975, he moved into her flat in the Mission district, 15 blocks from the house where Patty Hearst was hiding. The Mission district, inhabited largely by Mexicans, Chicanos, blue-collar workers and fameless artists living in low-rise buildings, was the cradle of the underground comix scene in the Sixties.

Bodé's old fascination with religious eroticism pursued him; he started to experiment with a form of meditation that involved self-strangulation. He would hang himself with a leather strap, grasping the strap in both fists until he lost consciousness and dropped to pillows strewn on the floor below; the strap then loosened, allowing him to breathe. He said it brought him closer to the "Laughing Light" and called the experiments in asphyxiation "black meditation," but they appeared to do little to relieve his still-galloping sexual frustrations. Instead, he seemed to be punishing himself for every step he had taken out of the closet. "He was looking desperately for a lady who would do what he wanted them to do, and this was weird sex," said Vince. "Dianne loved him too much to do the things he wanted done, S & M things. He was looking very seriously for a woman to kill him. He had even signed a pact in blood with one lady that said she would do anything he wanted at any time, and she freaked."

Vaughn disintegrated suddenly, like tissue paper in a rainstorm. He was smoking cigarettes, a habit he'd abandoned in 1968. For the first time, he was smoking a lot of pot and doing coke, Quaaludes and amyl nitrate.

"I talked to him on the telephone and he was really not too intelligible," Vince said. "Then I found out he'd had a real bummer with Quaaludes that week. He went to sleep and got up totally spaced. Didn't know who he was. He apparently came out of that. But he was feeling very distant. He tried every way to get his feelings back up to cope, to want." Bodé spent his nights in June at Andy's Donuts on Castro Street, writing "Confessions of a Cartoon Gooool!" Vincent Bodé gave away copies of it at the funeral.

At the 1975 Comic Convention in New York, held over July Fourth weekend,



Vaughn made his usual big hit. After engaging the William Morris Agency as his representative for lucrative book deals and some possible animated features, he flew back to San Francisco late Saturday night, July 12.

Vincent and his wife, Lois, stopped by that night and found Vaughn in good spirits, but tired from arguing with Dianne on the plane. It seems that Dianne had found a new love in New York and returned to San Francisco only at Vaughn's insistence. Vaughn was also drunk—Vaughn Bodé, who lived knowing drink had killed his father at an early age and would refuse a glass of wine with dinner, now besotted.

On Sunday, Vincent took Vaughn's son, Mark, to the zoo with his own children. Mark was to have spent the night at Vincent's house in Oakland, but the child suffered an allergy attack. Vincent and Mark spent that night in the hospital.

When Vincent took Mark home to the apartment at 7 A.M. Monday morning, he found Vaughn and Diane still arguing. Vince spent the day there trying to calm things down, finally leaving around 9 P.M.

Tuesday night, the Rolling Stones played the Cow Palace. This was a big event and Vaughn evidently partied out. Several people who spoke to him that day said he was incoherent and didn't remember their calls the next day. At one point he even punched Dianne, an act highly out of character for Bodé. After the concert, he spent the night talking to a Rod Stewart look-alike and a quietly psychotic young woman with slash marks on her wrists.

Thursday, Bodé spent the day arguing with Dianne. He spent his last night with a woman who asked not to be named, but whose resemblance to a Bodébrood more than one person has noted.

She met him at the Truckstop, a bar on Upper Market Street, at 10 P.M. He was drunk and stoned on 'ludes, a potentially lethal combination. They arrived at her apartment shortly before midnight. Vaughn told her he loved her and wanted her to be his master. He broke amyl nitrate capsules between his teeth and inhaled the fumes while talking. He asked her to beat and to strangle him. He left about six o'clock Friday morning.

When he got home Dianne was leaving for work. Around 1 P.M. Vaughn Bodé told Mark he was going into his room to meditate. Around 3:45, Vince called from Oakland Airport, where he was employed as an air traffic controller. Mark answered, spoke to his father through the bedroom wall, and told Vincent that Vaughn didn't want to be bothered. Vince, a bit angry, phoned back 20 minutes later. Mark said Vaughn wasn't coming to the phone.

"I took off work and went over to find out what the hell was happening," Vince said. Dianne was worried. Vaughn hadn't

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greeted her and his door was locked. Vince broke open the lock.

The official coroner's report reads: "He [Vince] entered and found the deceased lying on the floor, unresponsive, with a canvas strap and mask covering his face. He removed the canvas strap and the mask from the deceased's face and neck and contacted the police and emergency service. Officer Pinosky and Steward Stevenson arrived and this office was contacted, through police communications, at 1730 hours, 7-18-75. Investigation at the scene revealed the deceased to be lying in a supine position, on the bedroom floor, with his feet in the closet. He was dressed in female underclothing, with a garter belt around his neck."

Above Vaughn's body, in the closet, was a chinning bar and, as the report states, "it was apparent that the deceased had placed the canvas strap around the rod in the closet, then wrapped it around his neck."

A police evidence inventory says a search of the premises revealed: "Tunal (F 66 Lilly) 3 x 200 mg capsules; plastic bag containing green plant material on a wooden stick; brown leather kit containing pocket mirror, small metal spoon on a chain, glass vessel and a small vial containing a white crystalline substance; plastic bag, broken open, with traces of an amorphous white powder having a characteristic odor of talcum powder."

The coroner's laboratory extracted a 0.02 milligram concentration of cocaine and a 0.6 milligram concentration of benzoylecgonine, a cocaine derivative, from the urine.

The coroner's verdict was "asphyxia, due to strangulation by ligature." The loop had remained tight.

Vince said, "All signs say he did not commit suicide, that it was totally accidental even though maybe at that last second he knew and was probably happy that that was it."

The last Cheech Wizard Strips deal with the death of the "comicbook messiah." In one episode, some ghoulish lizards, thinking to solve the mystery of who it was under the Cheech's hat, exhume the coffin but find it empty. The Cheech didn't die, insisted Mark, age 12, "he escaped."

His brother's death convinced Vince that he was wasting his life as an air traffic controller. He immediately quit his job and now divides his time between attending college classes and painting.

On July 22, a brief funeral service was held in San Francisco, as subdued as such ceremonies usually are. Then Vaughn was taken to the crematorium. Neither Dianne nor Jeff Jones followed; Dianne was too upset and Jeff stayed behind to comfort her.

On the lid of Vaughn's coffin was a metal image of the Cheech Wizard. The mourners stared at it as the coffin slid into the flames. ■

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**VIVA! ROXY MUSIC**, by Roxy Music (Atco SD 36-139).



With his working-class, art-school background, Roxy Music leader Bryan Ferry meets all the qualifications for a typical English rocker. But Ferry is far from

typical. Where some blue-collar artistes, such as Ray Davies, Pete Townshend and John Lennon, rose above their backgrounds without undue self-consciousness, Ferry climbed away from his in a way that is all too obvious. Where the others spoke to their audience as equals and addressed the class system only to mock it, Ferry poses as an aristocrat and puts his band onstage much as a viscount might lead tourists through his ancestral home.

With his calculated disdain and ironic detachment, Ferry is all that rock is not: cool, remote and stiff. Yet he has created one of the best rock bands of the Seventies. "I wanted to do myself in music," he says by way of explanation. If his band is an accurate representation, then he must sport more contradictions than a Himalayan beach house in February. He parodies sales techniques based on sex and class appeal, while using the same gimmicks to sell himself. He gave up art, a career that promises stature among the elite, for rock, which promises that and cold cash from the masses, too. All this implies that he actually distances himself from his upper-class persona as effectively as that persona distances itself from any real emotion.

When Roxy Music first gained attention four years ago, it was dubbed an "avant-garde" rock band, apparently on the theory that it was more progressive than "progressive" rock. In fact, there is no reason to assume the band was rock. In fact, there is no reason to assume the band was ever intended to be anything less than commercially successful, especially in view of Ferry's dismay over the length of time it took to crack the American market. There is, however, ample reason to assume it was intended to be more than commercially successful.

Viva! Roxy Music, the band's sixth album and first live release, shows why. Like other live albums, it capitalizes on the group's commerciality. But unlike others, it mocks the whole idea of commercialism—in songs like "In Every Dream Home a Heartache," about a consumer's relationship with his inflatable mate, and in "Do the Strand," about a dance whose name is the same as that of a British cigarette. Most of the songs are obscure (one, "Pyjamarama," was never even released in the States), yet they are

consistent in quality with the band's better-known selections. Such consistency is more typical of business people than artists.

Ferry's product, with its upwardly mobile pretensions, dovetails neatly with his audience's appetites. It sells rock fans an image of their entertainers—and, by extension, of themselves—as debonaire sophisticates divorced from harsh reality. But it also suggests how readily we divorce ourselves from that reality, no matter what our affectations, and it implies that the result can be less than pleasant.

Surrender to the nitrous intensity of the band's delivery: such manic surrealism is logical accompaniment to Ferry's jaded quest for titillation. It manages to be numbing and thrilling at the same time, hinting at promise and danger but delivering only sensory overload. It's carefully calculated to be a tease that never satisfies—Ferry's metaphor for life.

—Frank Rose

**THE MODERN LOVERS** (Beserkley BZ 0050) and **JONATHAN RICHMAN AND THE MODERN LOVERS** (Beserkley BZ 0048).



Jonathan Richman is a scoutmaster for the modern world, a lonely universe of expressways, shopping centers and empty concrete canyons through which he skips like Dorothy in Oz. This world may seem cold and sterile in real life, but as he drags us along, pointing out abominable snowmen in the market and the nectar in Springtime's hair, he turns it into a phantasmagorical wonderland filled with whimsy and bathos and love. Richman's nature walks are a comic homage to the banality of American life.

Richman and his Boston-based Modern Lovers spent most of the early Seventies as an underground sensation trying to come up with a commercially acceptable record for Warner Brothers—first with John Cale producing, then with Kim Fowley. *The Modern Lovers*, a relic of that period, includes six of the Cale productions; they sound a lot like Velvet Underground songs but they don't always work. "Roadrunner," the Lovers' signature song, lacks the monotonous drive and the eerie, disconnected quality that usually give it meaning. "Pablo Picasso," a facetious little ditty about how ugly artists succeed with girls, gets the hypnotizing treatment "Roadrunner" should have had. The *Beserkley Chartbusters* sampler (which includes the prototypal "Roadrunner") offers a better introduction to Richman; *The Modern*

*Lovers* provides a more detailed look at his peculiar mental topography.



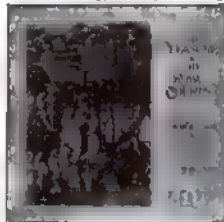
On first listening, Richman's new album, *Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers*, seems designed for the benefit of children

and vegetables. Songs with titles like "Rockin' Shopping Center," "Hey There, Little Insect" and "Here Come the Martian Martians" get a garage-band delivery that makes you wonder if they'd even make it on "Romper Room." A large part of Richman's appeal has always been his disarming amateurishness (he looks like a guy who saw Lou Reed onstage three years ago, said "I can do that" and hasn't let go of the mike since); but where does disarming stop and irritating begin?

Not with this album, even if you hate children and vegetables. If it takes a while to love it, that's because Richman, having discovered himself unable or unwilling to meet the record medium on its own terms, has apparently decided to play by his rules. He breaks nearly every canon there is, not only of Top 40 production, but of any kind of commercial recording: his displays of vocal and musical incompetence are stunning, his attempts to squeeze in extra syllables are ludicrous, his goofball intros are wildly disconcerting. But it's still fun. Richman has taken a rigid, formalized medium and turned it into a campfire sing-out. Don't let it throw you; with scoutmasters as goofily eccentric as this one, sing-outs can really be okay.

—Frank Rose

**THE PLEASURES OF THE ROYAL COURTS**, by the Early Music Consort of London (Nonesuch H-71326).



Stifled by the numbing practicality of Western civilization, young Americans of European descent have taken to raiding other cultures for their native kicks. This record reminds us how unnecessary such a practice actually is, all they need do is dig deeper into their own past. For centuries before the Renaissance, the Christian princes of Europe—men with names like Charles the Rash, Philip the Good and Louis the Seventh—sought respite from their feudal wars by retiring to rude stone fortresses filled with music of a decidedly primitive nature. Although not too big on polyrhythms and syncopation, these sounds certainly didn't anticipate Lawrence Welk or Muzak.

*The Pleasures of the Royal Courts*



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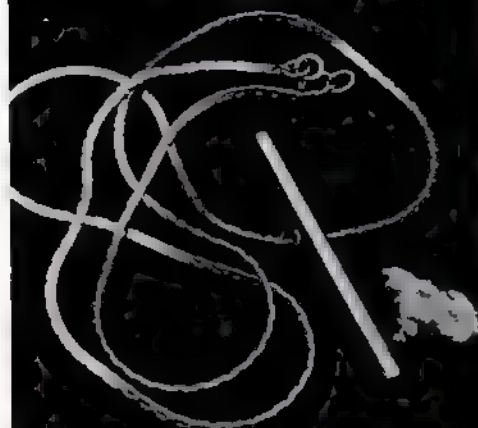
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spans the period just before the emergence of what we now refer to as classical music. It briefly traces the development of western secular music from the early thirteenth century to the early sixteenth, with selections from the courts of the many duchies, kingdoms and principalities. The sixteenth-century carnival songs, dances and court songs enjoyed by the Hapsburgs and Medicis are relatively polite and sophisticated compositions; they're played on keyboard instruments that are obvious predecessors of the Baroque masterpieces of two centuries later. But the earlier songs and dances, like the works of thirteenth-century trouvères under the patronage of Eleanor of Aquitaine or the relics from the fifteenth-century Burgundian court of Philip the Good, suggest peoples not too far removed from the barbarian hordes who sacked Rome a millennium before.

The songs may be chivalrous odes to chaste amour, but the music often carries more than a suggestion of carnal abandon. Wildly exotic, starkly primitive, dominated by the shrill tones of the recorder and the savage beat of the tabor, it shows us in proper perspective the dimly-lit castles where it originated: islands of stone in vast forests of darkness.

—Frank Rose

**PHIL SPECTOR WALL OF SOUND  
VOL. 5: RARE MASTERS**, by various  
artists (Phil Spector International  
Super 2307 008 [mono]). In the early



Sixties, when dorks like Fabian and Bobby Vinton and the Four Seasons ruled the charts, Phil Spector was virtually the only person in the business to visualize the power that music could possess. The massive doo-wah sound his girl groups produced was his vehicle for realizing that power. Through them he discovered an ability to elevate the mundane to the cosmic; he built anthems out of teenage laments.

The British are experiencing something of a Phil Spector revival right now, which explains why they're up to volume five already and we haven't even got volume one (although the new Warner/Spector label has scheduled two other Spector compilations for fall release). *Rare Masters* is an aptly titled import record with selections that will send Spector freaks into ecstasy. Less committed listeners may want to start elsewhere.

These are songs that never quite made it. It's not hard to see why; nearly half are second-rate—enervated parodies of the classic Spector sound. The Ronettes' "Woman in Love" has the kind of wide-eyed innocence more appropriate to a Keane painting; April Stevens's "Why

Can't a Boy and Girl Just Stay in Love?" makes you wonder who cares; the Crystals' "All Grown Up" (an early take of their last release on Spector's Philles label) just sounds inane with its rapid-fire tempo and its Ricky Ricardoesque horn section.

Other selections are closer to what we expect: the Ronettes' "Paradise," much bootlegged but never before officially released, or Darlene Love's "Stumble and Fall" and "Run Run Run Runaway," the latter reminiscent of the Crystals' incredible "Do Doo Ron Ron." But for nonfanatics, the album's redemption depends on two cuts: Bonnie and the Treasures' "Home of the Brave," and Darlene Love's "Strange Love."

"Strange Love" is the equal of anything Spector ever released. Halting, lilting, almost chirpy at first, it quickly descends into a furious rejection of some guy's "stra-aa-aange kinda love"—the kind that involves cheating. "Can't take it, can't take it no more/Don't want you hangin' round my door," she spits, with the air of a girl who's about to pull a .45 out of her curlers; it's the desperation Spector knew how to get so well. Bonnie's problem is that her boyfriend is about to get kicked out of school because of his haircut. "Home of the brave!" she screams. "Land of the free! Why won't they let him be what he wants to be?" Plymouth Rock, Independence Hall, Grant's Tomb, purple mountain majesties... all wither before her symphonic onslaught. Cloaked in the flag, apple pie dripping from her mike, she gives them a civics lesson the high school teachers forgot: greaseballs got rights, too.

—Frank Rose

**THE WILD TCHOUPITOUHAS (Island ILPS 9360)**. Conventional wisdom



holds New Orleans to be a city of the United States of America. This is not true. New Orleans is a foreign colony under the economic domination of oil-rich Texans in doubleknit suits and ten-gallon hats. What remains of the city's decaying swamp culture is an unspeakably gaudymelange of wildly differing peoples who revel in a past as seductive as it is iconoclastic.

The Wild Tchoupitoulas are black Indians who create Caribbean music and sport costumes that look like relics from a Busby Berkeley/Carmen Miranda musical about Custer's last stand. That is, they're quintessential Orleanians. Like the rest of the 20-odd "tribes" of Mardi Gras Indians who parade through the streets during the city's annual debauch, they are the product of a bond that developed between black slaves and local Indians during the ante-bellum era.



Their music is second-line: upbeat shouting whose original purpose was to help a funeral procession's first line (family and friends) celebrate on the way back from the cemetery. It's enough to make you forget who died.

The obvious problem with recording a group like this is how to carry the feeling from the streets to the living room. Producer Allen Toussaint manages the transition by adding the Meters as a backup unit and recording only six of the 18 tribe members. The result is a record that sounds like an artifact only when you listen carefully to the lyrics (most of the songs are celebrations of the Wild Tchoupitoulas as de meanest boys in town—not your standard soul routine). The Meters' professional studio accompaniment may not be what you'd hear on Canal Street, but it does succeed in giving form and definition to the Tchoupitoulas' heavily syncopated sound without making it any less wild.

—Frank Rose

# SHAKE SOME ACTION, by the Flamin' Groovies (Sire SASD 7521).



Sixties rock has advantages today it never dreamed of in its own time. It sounds better now than it did then because of all those technical advances, and it sounds better than most Seventies rock, which is strung out on concepts too big to handle—concepts like "art," "sophistication" and "guitar solos." Mid-Sixties rock has none of those problems. It's just there to get you off.

Unlike most current "Sixties" rock bands, the Flamin' Groovies actually started out over ten years ago. They're an Anglophilic combo from San Francisco who got their big break in 1966—just in time to be buried beneath an avalanche of psychedelia. They persevered, label-hopping for three albums over the next five years, before they finally moved to England, where they managed to create a modicum of excitement. Now they're back, fifth columnists in any second British invasion the Beatles revival might spearhead.

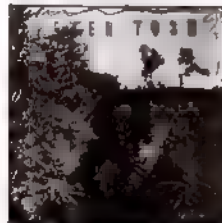
Shake Some Action, their first LP since 1971, reveals none of the weariness you might expect from a band that's been knocking around for a decade. Quite the opposite: there's a barely controlled exuberance here that distills all that was good about mid-Sixties adolescence. The title song (side one, track one) puts it across in the first 30 seconds with a quavering guitar line that sparks a sound so dense and yet so brilliant and light it makes the lyrics ("... let me bust out at full speed...") almost redundant. There are a number of fairly obscure updates here: the Beatles' "Misery," and the Lovin'

Spoonful's "Let the Boy Rock'n'Roll," but it's the originals that really succeed. Crisp and resonant, they fuse the techniques of the Stones, the Beatles and the Byrds with a spirit that can't be learned.

The irony of all this is that, while Sixties rock gleaned its effect from its lack of self-consciousness, that kind of innocence can't be regained; any band that trucks in send-ups of the past does so with the same art consciousness that makes so much contemporary rock as pretentious and tedious as it is. Art, however, is deadly only with fools, and these guys seem pretty bright. They slip into camp only once, on Gene Thomas's "Sometimes." The rest of the time, they sound so spontaneous you'd think they were working a genre no one had touched before.

—Frank Rose

# LEGALIZE IT, by Peter Tosh (Columbia Stereo PC 34253).



The Jamaican government banned radio play of "Legalize It" when Peter Tosh released it there last year, and it went on to become one of the biggest-selling records reggae ever produced. It brought Tosh to the attention of Columbia Records (after the Trans-High Corporation turned down an offer to sell the American demo), who released his first album with the heaviest marijuana-identification any reggae album has yet enjoyed—a beautiful picture of Tosh smoking a rainbow-colored pipe in a ganja field on the cover, grass-green colas sleeve, and pictures of four out of six Toshmen toking heavily, spliffwise, plus Legalize It buttons and stickers for the critics. "De mon can't bust our music," as Ras Clive Davis would say. Tosh seems to have anticipated this rosy green state of affairs, because before the title tune is eight grooves old, he sings, "Legalize it, I'll advertise it."

Tosh was one of the founders of the Wailers, and they say it was "de hardest rockers in all Yard" when he, Marley and Bunny Livingston roamed West Kingston together. Without Marley, Tosh still has the heaviest sound in reggae: if there's anything wrong, it's the slight humor in his voice and lyrics, which lack a little of Marley's Jah-mad intensity. In fact, in the chanting "Igziabeher (Let Jah Be Praised)," Tosh sounds like Rick Wakeman, laying down his Rastafarian creed with the sublime reserve of an Anglican minister. Another odd influence is the kind of jug-band style of "Till Your Well Runs Dry"; even more bizarre is the Dylanesque line "Your jawbone favors a Spanish town handcuff" on "Brand New Second Hand," which is the "Positively 4th Street" of Jamaica. Apart from that, this is reggae: chugging, polychromatic,

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with weird harmonies, street noises and Caribbean characteristics. It's a great act to follow Marley's, and how long will it be before Jah's two top sidemen get back together for an American tour?

—Eric Whiteblood

## THE RUNAWAYS (Mercury SRM1-1090).



The Runaways prove that rock 'n' roll is and always will be an essentially teenage art. Their music isn't complex, but it's all there—heavy, militant energy; teenage angst, sex, good humor, bad attitudes—proving that less is more, in rock at least. It's bubble gum, but it pops like thunder. Just listen to their hit "Cherry Bomb" ("Hello Daddy, Hello Mom, I'm your Ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-cherry bomb!") and you'll realize that this group can deliver alienated orgone energy better than anyone since Jim Morrison. And they won't be as old as Paul McCartney until 1994.

The Runaways are five in number, but one in allegiance to the streetpunk ethic: Cherie Currie, 16, vocals and piano; Sandy West, 16, vocals and drums; Jackie Fox, 16, bass and vocals; Lita Ford, 17, lead guitar, and Joan Jett, 16, rhythm guitar and vocals. They look like they only stop chewing gum to lie about their names, but their pictures show enough baby fat to make their ages sound right. But the Runaways aren't looking for anyone's respect. Their legendary producer, Kim Fowley, who brought you "Alley Oop," and "Papa-Oo-Mow-Mow," says they play all their own instruments, too, though they really sound like 35-year-old studio musicians, but what does that matter when the Runaways can dramatize a song better than the Shangri-Las as they do on "Dead End Justice":

Where am I?

You're in a cheap run-down teenage jail.

Oh, my God!

Yeah, blondie, you're gonna be here till you're 18, so get used to it.

The Runaways are pretty hung up on how archetypal they are, in songs with titles like "American Nights." Their message is addressed to "dead-end kids in the danger zone, you sleep in the streets when you're not at home," and they tell male audiences "you like drugs, you like brew, you won't believe what I'll do to you." Whatever it is, you're pretty sure it'll be violent but that you'll like it anyway. "On the planet Sorrow, there's no tomorrow," the girls sing, but they're sentimental too. "You grab the guard in the prison yard, grab his keys and gun—we'll run," says one; "Is he handsome?" asks another. The Runaways are the MC5 without bras, and their album is worth buying for the centerfold picture of the girls alone.

—Eric Kibble



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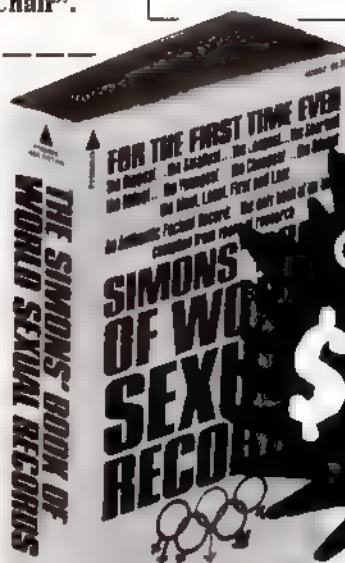
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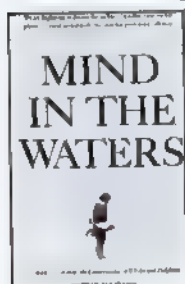
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**MIND IN THE WATERS: A Book to Celebrate the Consciousness of Whales and Dolphins, assembled by Joan McIntyre (Scribner's/Sierra Club, \$6.95).** So many startling, even revolu-



tionary, intellectual concepts are offered in this lovely book that no review could possibly do justice to it. It should be bought by everyone with seven dollars to spare—a steal at twice the price—sub-

jected to deepest contemplation and then loaned around to folks who haven't the spare money. Since it appears that whales and dolphins do possess self-awareness, logical thought processes and interpersonal communication, it behooves us all to ponder the implication of this; and since the typical human reaction to anything this alien is to exterminate it, it's best that the news of cetacean consciousness be spread about by such a gentle, poetic, even anguished anthology as this.

Not that this book offers any absolute empirical proof of whale awareness, mind you: no dolphin has so far learned chess or written a book, and no scientist has yet sung in a chorus of killer whales. But the brains of whales and dolphins possess all the cortical structures that in humans are employed exclusively in thinking, only theirs are more intricately developed. And these intellectual structures are moreover articulated even more intimately with the primitive emotional core-structures of the brain. Since all these neurological paraphernalia are useful only for conscious thought (a lobster doesn't have them or need them), the inescapable conclusion is that cetaceans must be sentient. And they've been sentient for 30 million years, 18 million longer than ourselves.

This is a chastening discovery, especially in view of recent human achievements in deep-sea pollution, whale genocide and casual murder of dolphins in the tuna-fishing industry. "Canst thou draw out Leviathan with an hook?" Job was asked; and today, by God, we can, after mutilating Leviathan beforehand with an explosive harpoon. Why, as he was drawing Ahab into the deep, Moby Dick may have been quoting his own scripture, a million years older than the God of Abraham himself! These are awesome and ugly ideas, prompted by this great book.

Besides these great notions, *Mind in the Waters* is handsomely illustrated throughout, and the opening section on ancient dolphin mythology presents

some unbelievably lovely poetry. It is only marred by the pervasive self-righteousness of many of its contributors, especially the assembler herself. Whales and dolphins are consistently portrayed as innocent, meditative, tenderly affectionate and simple people (Adam and Eve before the Fall is the obvious archetype here), which is an offensively cloying bit of anthropomorphism, really. Just because, unlike humans, dolphins have no arms and fingers with which to murder people, this does not necessarily exempt them from Original Sin.

By the same token, humankind in this book is everywhere made out to be programmed for holocaust, à la Robert Ardrey, doomed by biology to slaughter ourselves and everything else. And while this may be true, the superior and moralizing tone adopted by McIntyre—and by so many other eco-nuts—is only another ugly symptom of it, and does no good for either ourselves or the whales.

Information pertaining to whales and dolphins, and programs for their preservation, may be got from: Project Jonah, Box 476, Bolinas, California 94924.

—Dean Latimer

**HEAVILY TATTOOED MEN AND WOMEN, by Spider Webb, with an introduction by Marcia Tucker (New York: McGraw-Hill, \$5.95).** Whether



you think you are interested in tattooing or not, I'm sure you'll find the photographs in *Heavily Tattooed Men and Women* fascinating and a little frightening. I've taken a private survey of reactions from both tattooed and untattooed people to the book, which contains 100 photographs selected from the over 30,000 in Spider Webb's collection. The reactions ranged from low gasps to "My God!" with a few embarrassed giggles thrown in.

Why? According to the forward by Marcia Tucker (a curator of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York), these people are works of art, "living canvases" exercising "one of the most intimate, personal and profoundly serious forms of esthetic expression known to us." That is the mind-blower. Looking at these totally tattooed people is like looking into their souls and coming up with sailing ships, flags, dancing girls and crucifixions as their profoundly serious forms of expression.

Yet if you stop and think about it, what kind of art is considered most attractive

by people today? Paintings of kids with big eyes, fluorescent posters of people fucking and the album covers of most of the popular rock groups. In fact, in a modern tattoo studio like Mr. Webb's, most of the custom designs come from album covers and comic books, just as the designs of the people in his book originally came from wallpaper, patriotic posters and artists' renderings of Biblical passages such as Da Vinci's *Last Supper*, the above-mentioned crucifixion scenes, "Rock of Ages" and various angels and Madonnas.

Given a choice of what to put permanently on the skin, ordinary people opt for what they understand, what they find safe and, therefore, beautiful. Somehow, the public's taste changes but doesn't improve.

It's not the specific tattoo design that makes tattooing an art form—it's the act of being tattooed, the oldest kind of performance and body art around. To see someone's act taken to the extreme knocks others off guard, whether it's a nine-year-old boy standing with his parents (all three of them covered with designs) on the cover of the book or The Great Omi, whose face is covered with black zebra stripes. It's a trip into your own hidden fantasies and fears, back to the primitive time that existed at some point in all cultures when the act of being tattooed ushered a boy into manhood or a girl into womanhood. —Angela Phillips

**VISIONARY VINE—PSYCHEDELIC HEALING IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON, by Marlene Dobkin de Rios (New York: Chandler Pub. Co., out of print).** To study heal-



ing uses of the hallucinogenic vine ayahuasca (also called yagé), Marlene Dobkin de Rios went to the Peruvian city of Iquitos and set herself up as a fortune teller in a disease-ridden slum. A thatched-roof

house that literally floated on the Amazon's muddy waters became her base of operations. Clients flocked to hear their cards read. They confided in her to contact some of the many folk doctors who use ayahuasca therapeutically.

The author begins her anthropological analysis with a survey of psychedelic drugs that have been taken by South Americans throughout recorded history. In her often charming style, she describes the history and current character of the jungle city where she lived. The reader

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learns how it feels to be a part of the Peruvian community and why its inhabitants believe all their illnesses and misfortunes result from black magic—either poison or witchcraft.

Healing sessions, usually held for a group of patients, begin with whistling and songs and proceed to the ritualized drinking of *ayahuasca* potions, varied in strength according to the patients' needs. Although the folk doctors treat many kinds of illnesses, including lovesickness, they choose their patients carefully, mindful of the probability of success.

The drug experience itself usually contains visions of jungle creatures and of the people thought to have used magic to cause illness. Allen Ginsberg summed up his *ayahuasca* trip in a letter to William Burroughs by writing that the drug made him feel "like a snake vomiting up the universe." Dobkin's conclusion is that doctors who employ *ayahuasca* fulfill a psychiatric function in the slum society of Iquitos.

Some spelling errors may erode the reader's confidence in the accuracy and care of the author's observations. Nevertheless, this slim volume is pleasurable, interesting reading. It provides astute insights into the *ayahuasca* experience and some poverty-stricken individuals whose lives are ruled—and often emotionally enriched—by magic.

—Carol Ardman

**CRIMES: OR I'M SORRY SIR, BUT WE DO NOT SELL HANDGUNS TO JUNKIES**, by Vicar Vicars (Pulp Press: Box 8806, Postal Station Bentall, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, \$1.00). I have been



reticent to review this book for a long time, largely due to the fact that some years ago a vicious mudslinger, long since dead—by his own hand, I hasten to add—accused me of having written it. But now, to paraphrase the poet Rilke, the cocksucker's dead and everyone can relax.

Let me start off by saying that this is a fine book. It measures roughly 4 X 9 inches and has a colorful cover on which the registration is just slightly off. The printer, whom I happened to meet in an artist's-and-writer's bar in Montreal, assures me that it was not his fault but that of his apprentice who was unstable at the time, and though now entirely given over to drink, he is an excellent printer and a credit to his trade.

As to the contents, they include numerous droll photographs, some rather striking metaphors, a few short parodies, several Joycean ironies, two Proustian sentences, several Mailer-esque descriptive passages, one life statement remini-

cent of Samuel Beckett (Nobel prize 1968—held it for two years; four title defenses—three successful), a short Stendhalian vision of society, some Wodehouse dialogue, some punchy Hemingway adjectives, all bulwarked by the cockiness that writer so admired in bulls who were about to be confused with rags and skewered on Toledo blades.

The writing style of the author, an obscure vicar with a mind of his own and not someone else's, has been described as being somewhat derivative of mine. It is just possible, of course, that the Vicar might have read some of my works in obscure magazines devoted to the praise of nature. Given his tragic death in 1972, however, it hardly seems likely, as at that time I was working for a communist newspaper, which took the editorial position that such men's intestines should be used to hang landlords.

—Ted Mann

**THE BUTTERFLY CONVENTION**, by Susan Nadler (New York: Dial Press, \$7.95). Susan Nadler was having a fine



old time getting high, traveling to Israel, living in L.A., sunning in Acapulco, eating health food, taking herbal laxatives, studying the cabala, sitting on mountaintops, snorting cocaine with other classy

freaks and staying in \$500-a-month apartments on the ocean. The money it takes to support this lifestyle, though, was not always forthcoming from her otherwise generous parents in Pittsburgh. So when Susan ran into Andrew, "a blond, long-haired, definitely 'hey sister' Gemini song writer" and he told her of this foolproof deal where she could invest \$4,000 (she had \$5,000 to her name) and turn it into \$40,000, she knew the answer to her prayers had come. On the spot she fell in love with Andrew and began dreaming of the land they would buy with the money and of how they would take care of all their high friends, be close to the earth and never ever have to work.

The foolproof deal was to smuggle 250 kilos of Moroccan hash into the country via Mexico. Barely two months after Susan entered into the scheme, she, Andrew and their connection, Ted, were in a Mexican prison sentenced to a maximum of 27 years. Susan figured out she would be 52 by the time she got out and became very sick. *The Butterfly Convention* chronicles her subsequent life in prison and her growing remorse over her previous "looney-tunes" existence.

Susan Nadler is now out of prison and divides her time living in Pittsburgh, Key West and New York City. As for Andrew and Ted, *via con Dios*. —Lynda Crawford

**RETURN TO SENDER**, by Raymond Mungo (Boston: San Francisco Book Company/Houghton Mifflin, \$7.95). In-



credibly, Raymond Mungo is still alive and well and living with his family in Seattle. Incredibly, because Mungo was the most credulous and gentle man in the counterculture movement, the one

most likely to be hurt by the Seventies' return to the world as it is and not as it ought to be. Yet he survived the New Left infighting detailed in *Famous Long Ago*, the souring of communal life described in *Total Loss Farm* and now a tour of Japan, Southeast Asia, India and Malaysia, the subject of *Return to Sender*.

As with Mungo's other books, this one begins with Mungo In Search Of Something: a simpler, better way of survival—in this case, sheer pastoralism. Mungo's method of inquiry turns out to be one of William Empson's *Versions of Pastoral*: "The Ideal Simplicity Approached by Resolving Contradictions." This time, the contradictions are to be resolved by transporting Mungo, a modern techno-American, to Asia with the hope that he can figure out a *modus vivendi*.

It doesn't work, of course. In Japan he hooks up with friendly lefties, finds a dope connection, unwittingly betrays a friendship and feels compelled to flee. In Hong Kong he meets the preposterous Dr. Yow and joins his Society of the Cosmos. In Malaysia he smokes opium, befriends a Nepalese youth and ships out on a tramp steamer to India. On the subcontinent, while he's alternately delighted and flabbergasted by the Indians themselves, Mungo is sufficiently well grounded in reality to observe that "[the] worst condition that we can imagine our country falling into is still better than the best condition India hopes to create."

Eventually Mungo realizes that Asia will not resolve his contradictions. Like any region populated by human beings, it embraces fresh contradictions of its own. So Mungo returns—by no means defeated—to the U.S. where he marries and begins to raise a family.

Even though he thought it worth publishing a book about his trip, Mungo remains nobly humble. Instead of railing at the world in shrill tones for not operating quite as he'd expected, Mungo takes things with a spirit of, "Ah. Of course. That's where I was wrong." Mungo doesn't translate his beliefs into dogmas, and that allows him to maintain considerable spiritual resilience. As a result, *Return to Sender* is free of the whining of disappointed anticipation. And the next time I see another book about Mungo In Search Of Something, I'll be pleased to read it in the hope that he has come closer to finding it.

—Ben Pesta

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## Wild Parties

(continued from page 56)

celebrating the enormous success of his film *Around the World in Eighty Days*, and Todd told the newspapers he was going to give "a private little party." On the night of October 17, 1957, that was exactly what the marquee of Madison Square Garden read: "A Little Private Party." Inside the huge old Garden were 18,000 people.

What Todd had done was sell the television rights to CBS. It was perhaps the only party in history to feature Walter Cronkite as anchorman, a full staff of roving reporters and a national television audience for an hour and a half.

"Both the props and general atmosphere of a circus," was how the New York Times described the event. There was a Shriners' band, 260 dancers, floats, horses, clowns, Siamese cats, Texas trick riders, knights in armor, thousands of balloons and hundreds of celebrities in black tie and formal gowns. Garry Moore was the M.C., and Senator Hubert Humphrey toasted Todd as a fellow Minnesotan. There was also "the world's biggest birthday cake," sliced by Todd's brand-new wife, Elizabeth Taylor. Loads of free gifts were distributed to the crowd, donated by manufacturers who wanted their products plugged. The Garden guards bootlegged champagne to the upper balconies at five bucks a bottle. Outside the doors, a melee broke out when mobs tried to crash in.

When asked how much the "little private party" had cost, Todd replied, "I wouldn't know, I'm an artist. I don't think in terms of money."

Perhaps the only modern entities carrying on in the Todd tradition are the record companies, which regularly stage bashes to promote rock groups. An enormous party was held for Alice Cooper in 1972 at the Chesington Zoo in London. Invitations were sent out in the form of Barnum & Bailey posters. The festivities were sparked by a mingling of celebrities, freaks, animals and strippers. A similar extravaganza marked the end of the Who's 1974 tour. New York's cavernous Manhattan Center was jam-packed with people, pushcarts full of weird foods, snake charmers, a roller derby, and porn film star Marc ("Ten-and-a-half") Stevens streaking about clad only in silver paint.

In 1973, the Stax record company organized a conference for rock critics that many participants remember as a wild party. Stax blew about \$40,000 flying rock writers to Memphis, putting them up in hotels, feeding and boozing them. Less time was spent actually conferring than on drugs and sex. While most had fun, the album reviewers indignantly refused to consider the affair a bribe.

But the most wildly extravagant party occurred on July 16, 1975. It was attended

by only four persons. At noon on that day, two Americans and two Russians got together about 140 miles over the Atlantic, just west of Portugal. As they shifted over toward Amsterdam, the two cosmonauts from the Soyuz space capsule partied with the two astronauts in the Apollo craft. They shared some lunch. They exchanged small talk in each other's languages. They handed each other flags and little gifts. Like Mike Todd's party, this too was televised. It was not much for wine, women, and song. But at 140 miles, it was the highest party ever.

## Violence

Those who have read Albert Goldman's *Ladies and Gentlemen, Lenny Bruce!* are probably familiar with a character named chic Eder. A doper hero who has done 18 years of partying at the hospitable federal accommodations in Fort Leavenworth and points west, chic is very much the action-philosopher of the wild party:

"First ya gotta get rid of the squares. That's the first thing, okay? Now ya gotta have a lot of what I call loositude. That's the second thing. Next, I think ya gotta have a little danger. Push the limits, see? Now I been to parties where they played Russian roulette. A guy pulls out a gun, leaves one bullet in it and passes it around. A lot of people chicken out, though. One guy I remember he was the host. He said, 'Hey put that thing away. I don't want you messing my house with blood and guts!'"

Danny Fields, of 16 Magazine, states that a wild party is where "people try to kill themselves." Undoubtedly, death does add a memorable touch to any gathering. The most notorious party of that sort happened in the very early days of Hollywood madness.

As Kenneth Anger relates the story (in his book, *Hollywood Babylon*), silent

film star Fatty Arbuckle was famous for hard partying. For instance, when the rotund plumber-turned-actor first signed with Paramount Studios, a party was given in Boston at a place called Brownie Kennedy's Roadhouse. Says Anger, "The lavish entertainment laid on in Fatty's honor included twelve 'party girls' who were paid \$1,050 for their contribution to the evening's fun. A bluenose busybody peeking through an open transom just as Fatty and the girls were stripping on the table, decided 'decency' had been outraged and called the cops. Attending the festivities were movie magnates Adolph Zukor, Jesse Lasky and Joseph Schenck. They ended up paying \$100,000 in hush money to the Boston district attorney and Mayor James Curley."

The scandalous party that ended Fatty Arbuckle's career and the life of a 25-year-old model named Virginia Rappe began on September 3, 1921. On that day, Fatty checked into the opulent St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, taking three adjoining suites on the twelfth floor. Anger's account takes it from there:

Fatty rang up his bootleg connection, Tom-Tom the bellboy, found some jazz on the radio, and the party was on. On Labor Day afternoon, Monday, the party was still going strong. It was Fatty's "open house" with people coming and going, the crowd swollen to about fifty and the host a happy drunk. Virginia and the other girls were downing gin-laced Orange Blossoms; some shed their tops to do the shimmy; guests were trading pajama bottoms and the empty bottles were piling up. At about a quarter after three, Arbuckle, flopping around in pajamas and a bathrobe, grabbed Virginia and steered the tipsy model to the bed-

(continued on page 106)

## How to throw a wild party

1. Pick any night other than Saturday. (People always have other things to do.) Friday and Sunday are best.

2. Provide lots of differentiated space: a room for loud music and dancing, a quiet room for conversation, private areas for lovemaking, etc. Give people space to explore.

3. Lay in an ample stock of booze, dope, acid or whatever combination of intoxicants you plan to offer. Nothing kills a party faster than having the stuff run out early.

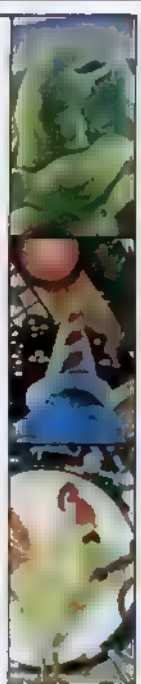
4. Invite several vastly different crowds of people who do not know each other: stockbrokers and bikers, artists and construc-

tion workers. Exciting combinations often develop.

5. Unless throwing an exclusively gay party, make sure there is a close to 50-50 mix of men and women. Unless it is a swingers party, see to it that there are a good number of unattached people circulating with couples.

6. Provide toys and activities for the guests: continuous slide shows, a porn-film, balloons and noise-makers, an arsenal of water pistols... of real pistols.

7. Do something unexpected: fill your pool with green jello, arrange for friends dressed as cops to "bust" the party, start a fight, set the house on fire.





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# Wild Parties

(continued from page 104)

room of suite 1221. He gave the revelers his famous leering wink, saying, "This is the chance I've waited for for a long time," and locked the door.

Moments later, according to court testimony, the party was interrupted by shrill screams and terrible moans from behind the door of 1221. Fatty suddenly emerged in crazy disarray, with Virginia's hat stuck on his head. Behind him, the young girl lay on the bed in a tangle of ripped underclothes and bloody sheets. She died five days later, and the state ruled that her death was due to "external pressure" applied by Arbuckle during sexual intercourse. He was charged with murder and though he was acquitted after three spectacular trials, the rumor persists to this day that Fatty Arbuckle killed Virginia Rappe with a Coke bottle used as a dildo.

But those were the days when ads for Hollywood films promised "Beautiful jazz babies, champagne baths, midnight revels, petting parties in the purple dawn, neckers, white kisses, red kisses, pleasure-mad daughters, sensation-craving mothers . . . The Truth! Bold, Naked and Sensational!"

## Intoxicants

It seems that one necessary ingredient of any wild party is a bounteous supply of intoxicants. For if wild means anything at all, it must certainly point to the shedding of ordinary inhibitions. That, of course, is precisely the effect of liquor, pot, hallucinogens and like substances.

"Grass," opines Danny Fields, "kills parties." However sedative it may be, grass today is smoked in copious quantities at most parties, wild or not. At Rastafarian shindigs, which entertain a high degree of wildness, joints the size of bazookas are huffed in time to throbbing reggae rhythms.

Hallucinogens, though, can create the most bizarre of all party atmospheres. This fact was frankly developed into a way of life in the mid-Sixties by the group known as the Merry Pranksters, led by Ken Kesey. The Pranksters invented a new sort of party, the Acid Test, fueled by high-decibel music, gaudy lights and LSD. Perhaps the maddest, craziest Acid Test the Pranksters ever pulled off was in early August 1965. It was recorded by Tom Wolfe in *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*.

The next thing the citizens of La Honda knew, there was a huge sign at the Kesey place—15 feet long, three feet high, in red, white and blue: THE MERRY PRANKSTERS WELCOME THE HELL'S ANGELS . . . the citizens were get-

ting ready for the day by nailing shut their doors. The cops were getting ready for the day by revving up ten patrol cars with flashing lights and ammunition. The Pranksters were getting ready by getting bombed.

The Angels, for their part, didn't know what to expect. Nobody had ever invited them anywhere before, at least not as a gang. They weren't on many people's invitation lists. The Pranksters had what looked like a million doses of the Angels' favorite drug—beer—and LSD for all who wanted to try.

The Angels got pretty drunk and many of them tried LSD for the first time. Soon, as Wolfe describes it, the party was going full blast:

The Pranksters had everything in their electronic arsenal going, rock'n'roll blasting through the treetops, light projections streaming through the gorge, Station KLSB blaring and screaming over the cops' heads, people in day-glo regalia blazing and lurching in the gloom, the Angels going *Haw—Haw—Haw*. The Hell's Angels party went on for two days and the cops never moved in.

And then there was Woodstock. With half a million guests, it ranks as the biggest party of all time, not counting the Normandy Invasion and the Crusades. The wondrous effects of grass, acid and mescaline are often credited with keeping the crowd from noticing that they were sitting in mud with the rain pouring down, generally unable to hear the music they came for.

Concerning LSD and the Hollywood party crowd, Punch Bowl again relates an extraordinary episode: "If I reveal her name," he cautions, "it would inevitably get back to me in some unpleasant manner. Just say it was a very famous and beautiful actress with an enormous modern mansion way up in the Hollywood Hills. Several years ago she sent out about a hundred invitations. Very elegant. 'Please come to my acid garden party,' et cetera.

"Now, her house is surrounded by acres and acres of splendidly landscaped gardens with little hills and dales. Flowers and tropical ferns and shrubs all over, with pretty ponds and rushing brooks. It was a bright, warm, sunny day. Multicolored silk tents had been erected, with Persian rugs and pillows scattered everywhere. Baskets of luscious fruit of every imaginable variety sat on long tables. And of course there was a delicious fruit and herb drink laced with a dilute mixture of LSD, so that a simple drink or two would give a mild buzz. Many drinks sent you off into orbit.

"The whole day, musicians played,

Famous rock stars just picked up instruments and gave little concerts. People sang. People strolled about in weird costumes or just plain stark naked running across the lawns. And, oh, there was so much sex!

"Masses of people formed a huge fucking pile in an underground garage. Others paired off and pleased themselves underneath the silk tents. I remember one vivid scene where a famous Vogue cover model sat in a pink bathtub on the lawn making love noisily for about an hour with a young actor stud. A small crowd stood around and applauded each orgasm. And the whole affair, because of everyone being so high on acid, seemed like a fantastic dream."

The undisputed king of party intoxicants, though, is liquor. Whether it be cheap wine, beer, whiskey or high falutin' champagne, booze seems to contain the power to transform any gathering of two or more people into a party. And every booze-up, no matter how crazy, aspires to a lyrical, romantic kind of condition that F. Scott Fitzgerald described in *The Great Gatsby*.

There was dancing now on the canvas in the garden; old men pushing young girls backward in eternal graceless circles, superior couples holding each other tortuously, fashionably, and keeping in the corners—and a great number of single girls dancing individualistically or relieving the orchestra of the burden of the banjo or traps. By midnight the hilarity had increased. A celebrated tenor had sung in Italian, and a notorious contralto had sung in Jazz, and between the numbers people were doing 'stunts' all over the garden, while happy, vacuous bursts of laughter rose toward the summer sky . . . I was enjoying myself now. I had taken two fingerbowls of champagne and the scene had changed before my eyes into something significant, elemental, and profound.

## Surprise

Throughout all these accounts runs a familiar thread: each was an occasion for surprise. Whether it be unusual sexual license, the sight of rare faces, lavish display, the possibility of danger or the effects of sensory dislocation, these elements all stimulate a radical departure from normal life. It may be a pleasant diversion or a horrible tragedy, you may remember the event forever or die during it. But a wild party is never what one expects it to be, and that is the secret of its success.

"You cannot plan a wild party," was one frequent comment encountered during this inquiry. That may be true. But we can always try. ☐



*Gee, I thought all you had was some dumb old domestic — what was in that joint we smoked?*

*I turned that crummy domestic green into African Red, Love. With that new Yohimbe Smokestuff smoking additive.*

*Mmmm — Thank you, Darling*

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**Hi★Lo Warehouse**

# Paraphernalia

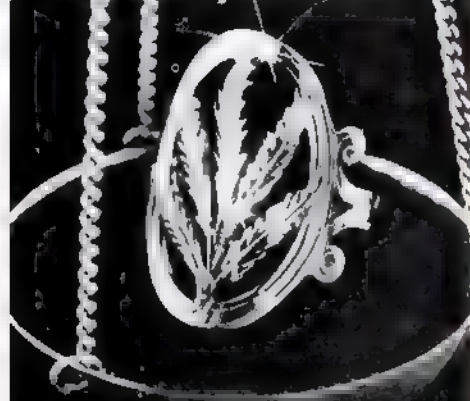


## If Plants Talked Back

You'd have to tell them not to give away the secret of this planter-stash. The bottom mirror pulls up to reveal a secret drawer large enough to hold several ounces of just about anything. The back is bracketed, so you can hang it on the

wall. One bit of advice: if planting directly in the planter, line the bottom or you may find yourself watering your stash. About \$65.00 from Aditi Enterprises, 2266 Cambridge St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90006.

**Acapulco Gold**  
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**14kt. Gold \$50. Sterling Silver \$15.**

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## The Nostronaut

This silver, abalone and turquoise artifact looks like proof that extraterrestrials visited the Incas. In fact, it is a product of good old Yanqui ingenuity, devised for serving up binostril snorts of the Incas' favorite powder-potion. The Nostronaut also comes in gold or silver and onyx and can be adjusted to fit even the most ridiculous nose. Silver \$23.95, gold plate \$19.95, from A.D.A. Imports, 20 E. Goethe, Chicago, Ill. 60610.

## Fireproof Joint

You'd need an acetylene torch to get this baby burning. That's because it's made of solid sterling silver. But it's a great conversation piece and will help you meet the right people in any crowd. The Perfect Joint is \$24.95 plus 75c postage and handling. Also available is the 14kt Acapulco Gold model, which goes for \$145.00. Perhaps the most expensive joint in history. From Gary Slocum Designs, 160 D Main St., Flemington, N.J. 08822.



### Help Elect the People's Choice

Who do we endorse for president? Nobody, that's who! Nobody will lower your taxes. Nobody cares about you. Nobody tells the truth. Nobody is the people's choice! But Nobody will never make it into the White House without your support. "Nobody for President" buttons and stickers were designed by well-known nobodies and are being distributed by several notorious nobodies. Send \$1 for button and sticker to the Nobody for President Committee, 1600 Woolsey, Berkeley, Ca. 94703



### Why Do You Think They Call It Dope?

Because you smoke it in a dope pipe. These solid aluminum pipes are custom cast at the Lost N Foundry, 9990 Graton Rd., Sebastopol, Ca. 95472. They will make you a pipe saying anything you want for a mere \$5 per letter with a three-letter minimum. Maybe that's why they call it dope. A marijuana pipe will cost you \$45.



### Go Pluck Yourself

In Kenya when lovers get together to make beautiful music, they usually do it with a pair of thumb pianos. Hand-carved out of soft wood by Kenyan craftpersons and easily tuneable, musical geniuses will have no trouble at all picking out "By the Light of the Silvery Moon," and some nice jazz rhythms can be performed even by those who are all thumbs. \$18.00 for a pair from Exclusive Enterprises, 2148 St. Clair, Detroit, Mich. 48214.



### EXPERIENCE KAMA SUTRA

The Kama Sutra emollients are made of natural ingredients, formulated to delight the senses and to heighten pleasure. All Kama Sutra products are designed to bring us closer...to encourage us to touch and to perceive each other. Each product is designed to provide a different physical sensation. Like the Kama Sutra Oil of Love.

*"Take this holy oil  
Take its crystal  
beads of starfire  
And touch it softly  
to your lover."*

### SPECIAL OFFER

Kama Sutra has designed a gift drum containing several means for lovers to keep in touch...Oil of Love, Pleasure Balm, Honey Dust, Clove Soap, Massage Cream...one of each of the five Kama Sutra products dedicated to expanding your pleasures. A year's supply for all but the lavish. The sensuous way to say, "I Love You."



Dealers welcome

"Paraphernalia" is devoted to the latest in dope accouterments. If you know of an item that should be reviewed on these pages, please send it to the Paraphernalia Editor, along with all relevant information on the product: price, how to obtain it and a brief description. All submissions will be carefully considered and quality tested. ☐

I want to experience Kama Sutra.

Please send me...

- Kama Sutra Oil of Love @ \$6 ea.
- Gift Drum "Soft Things to Touch" @ \$25 ea. (a \$31.50 value for \$25)

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## Legal Grass

This is a very special blend of high quality Korean Ginseng leaves, Damiana, high grade Lobelia Herb, African yohimbe bark and Hops. Guaranteed as best medium quality commercial weed. \$2.50/oz., \$7.00/4oz.

## Organic Speed

Kola nut tea and Chia seeds for many hours of high-energy fun. \$2.00/2oz. combination

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"The Kind"

This is truly one of the finest organic stimulants available. \$5.00/1oz.

## African Yohimbe

Bark Tea or

## Kava Kava Root

Each has effects similar to mellow acid.

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## Gotu Kola

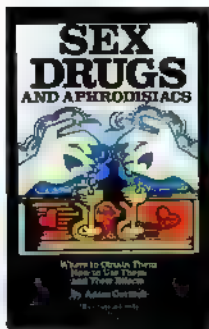
The Cosmic Think Drink  
\$1.00/oz., \$3.00/4ozs.

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Send \$10 and get one of each of the above (7ozs.) and save \$2.50.

For fast service send cash or postal money order and \$1 for shipping and handling

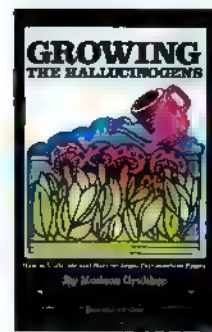
ELECTRIC EARTH HERBS  
Dept. H.T.  
P.O. Box 261  
Sonora, CA 95370



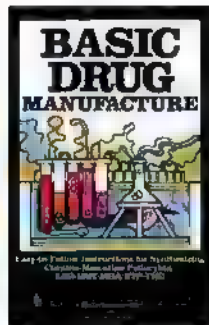
**SEX DRUGS AND APHRODISIACS:** The essential connoisseur's guide to herbs and potions traditionally associated with enhanced sensual pleasure. Includes discussions of yohimbin, fugu, absinthe, yage and other gourmet specialties, with comprehensive explanations of source preparations, use and effect. **\$3.50**



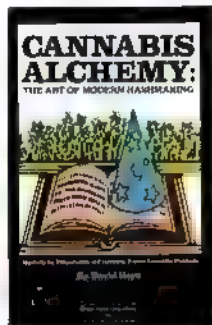
**THE ART AND SCIENCE OF COOKING WITH CANNABIS:** Everything from soup to nuts for the epicurean weedhead. Altered consciousness and flavor combined for those who eat marijuana. Tasty recipes for boiling, baking, sautéing, jellying, frying and seasoning psychoactive main courses, deserts and snacks. **\$3.50**



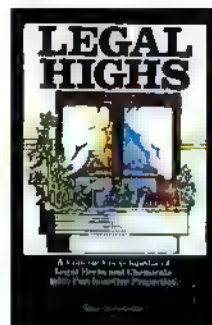
**GROWING THE HALLUCINOGENS:** How to cultivate and harvest the hallucinogenic and psychoactive plants described in "Legal Highs." Where to obtain seeds and live cuttings. A most valuable book for indoor or outdoor gardeners presented in careful detail by an expert horticulturist. **\$2.00**



**BASIC DRUG MANUFACTURE:** Easy-to-follow instructions for synthesis of cocaine, mescaline, psilocybin, LSD, DMT, MDA, STP, and two forms of THC. Includes equipment diagrams, laboratory techniques, safety procedure, where to purchase ingredients. **\$2.00**

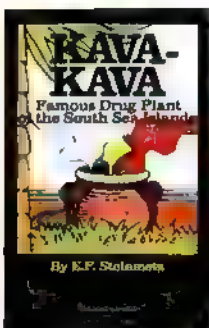


**CANNABIS ALCHEMY:** How to make concentrated hash oil from hashish or grass. Increase its potency up to ten times with no loss in volume by isomerizing THC to higher rotation. Convert nonactive hash cannabinoid in grass and hash to active THC. Sounds complicated but anyone can do it. **\$2.00**



**LEGAL HIGHS:** A concise encyclopedia of legal herbs and chemicals with psychoactive properties. Many potent substances which the lawmakers have overlooked, where to obtain them, how to use them, what their effects are. Includes photographic illustrations. **\$2.00**

# BOOKS FOR YOUR HEAD



**KAVA KAVA:** The use and effects of an amazing narcotic plant from the South Pacific. Beautifully illustrated study of the botany, chemistry, history, cultivation and preparation of this totally legal brew used in the rituals in Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. **\$2.00**



**THE CURSE OF THE OVAL ROOM:** Timothy Leary's last book before he fell victim to the curse himself. He writes about sex, political prisoners, Liddy Nixon, spy tactics, technology and the future. Introduction by Dick Gregory and illustrations by Yossarian. **\$2.00**

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# Trans-High Market Quotations

The Trans-High Market Quotations are a factual record of actual transactions that have taken place in the weeks before press time. The THMQ does not represent prices now, nor does it necessarily represent what people should or should not be paying. Dope prices vary widely according to region, city, quality, quantity, condition, freshness, market conditions, supply and demand, law enforcement intensity and many other factors. (Prices in the pound column are for 1 to 100 lbs.; all prices are in U.S. dollars.)

## DOMESTIC

### EAST COAST

Regular Mexican	paper-wrapped bricks	oz	15-25
Top-grade Mexican	Oaxacan and Guerrero	lb	100-200
Jamaican	poor	oz	30-50
		lb	325-450
Commercial Colombian	supply poor	oz	20-25
Connoisseur Colombian		lb	225-300
Hawaiian	remnants	oz	25-30
		lb	325-450
Thai sticks	fluctuating supply	oz	45-65
		lb	450-600
Nigerian grass	very good when found	oz	200-250
Moroccan hash	thin green slabs	oz	2200-3000
		lb	20-30
Lebanese hash	OK	oz	190-240
		lb	40-60
Afghani hash	thick black/white; very good	oz	450-575
Nepalese hash	fingers and balls	oz	75-100
		lb	900-1200
Paki hash	decent	oz	100-150
		lb	1000-1500
Lebanese hash oil	red assassin	oz	125-200
Afghani hash oil	thick and potent; scarce	oz	1900-2300
Honey oil	excellent	oz	120-180
		lb	1400-1900
THC	various types	oz	120-165
		lb	1300-1700
LSD	several kinds	gm	20-30
		oz	325-450
Psilocybin mushrooms	scarce	oz	25-35
Cocaine	all qualities	oz	325-450
		gm	25-35
Qualalude 714s	few and far between	oz	375-550
		lb	1-3
Ups	bootleg black beauties	oz	75-150
		hit	1-3

### FLORIDA-GEORGIA

Domestic	new stand-by	oz	10-20
Mexican	none exceptional	lb	75-175
Jamaican	worthless	oz	20-40
		lb	150-400
Commercial Colombian	fair quantity	oz	20-30
Connoisseur Colombian	hard to find	oz	225-350
Hawaiian	just stash	oz	35-50
		lb	350-550
Thai sticks	OK	oz	200-250
		lb	2200-2600
Moroccan hash	poor	oz	20-30
		lb	200-250
Afghani hash	thick black, very good	oz	80-100
Lebanese hash	sacked red, decent	oz	800-1100
		lb	120-175
Afghani hash oil	potent	oz	1500-2000
Lebanese hash oil	good	oz	85-115
LSD	scarce	oz	1000-1400
		gm	25-35
Cocaine	good quality around	oz	350-475
		gm	20-30
Qualaludes	now and then	oz	325-450
		hit	1-50-3
Ups	bootleg black beauties, good	oz	75-150
		gm	75-125
		oz	1100-1700
		one	2-3
		100	100-250
		one	1.50-2.50
		100	80-150

## SOUTH

Domestic	fair to good	oz	10-20
		lb	100-225
Regular Mexican	decent varieties	oz	15-25
Top-grade Mexican	Oaxacan—the best now	lb	150-300
Jamaican	stringy and seedy	oz	30-50
		lb	350-500
Commercial Colombian	nothing special	oz	20-30
Connoisseur Colombian	off the market	oz	200-300
Moroccan hash	green slabs, poor	oz	25-35
		lb	300-450
Afghani hash	good	oz	40-60
		lb	450-600
Lebanese hash oil	handy helper	oz	90-120
LSD	several kinds	oz	900-1200
		hit	120-180
Cocaine	usually not the best	oz	1300-1900
Ups	wide-ranging	one	25-35
		100	300-450

## GREAT LAKES REGION

Regular Mexican	just the usual	oz	10-20
Top-grade Mexican	poor supply	lb	100-250
Jamaican	garbage	oz	40-65
		lb	450-600
Commercial Colombian	earthy	oz	20-30
Connoisseur Colombian	unavailable	oz	275-375
Thai sticks	extremely scarce	oz	25-40
		lb	300-450
Afghani hash	surfboard slabs	oz	40-65
		lb	450-600
Nepalese hash	some fingers, good	one	20-35
		oz	190-225
Paki hash	black/green, decent	oz	120-165
		lb	1300-1900
Honey oil	excellent when found	oz	130-190
LSD	computer dots	oz	1400-1900
		hit	110-150
Mescaline	chocolate or strawberry	oz	1200-1700
Peyote	still fresh	gm	25-35
Cocaine	poor to fair	oz	450-575
Qualaludes	rare	hit	1-3
		100	100-200

## MIDWEST

Domestic	wheat flavor	oz	10-20
		lb	75-200
Regular Mexican	usual bricks	oz	10-20
Top-grade Mexican	supply really diminished	lb	100-250
Commercial Colombian	shaky in all ways	oz	45-65
Connoisseur Colombian	impossible dream	lb	400-650
Thai sticks	scarce	oz	30-45
		lb	350-450
Afghani hash	occasional, lower grade	oz	45-70
Lebanese hash	sacked red	lb	500-650
		one	20-35
Honey oil	delicious	oz	200-250
		oz	110-160
Afghani oil	thick black	lb	1400-1800
LSD	scarce of late	oz	100-140
		hit	1150-1850
MDA	very different	gm	25-35
Peyote	fair supply	oz	450-575
Cocaine	decent	hit	20-30
		100	375-500

## SOUTHWEST

Domestic	decent	oz	10-20
		lb	75-175
Regular Mexican	OK	oz	10-20
Top-grade Mexican	supply fluctuating	lb	75-175
Commercial Colombian	seedy	oz	25-50
		lb	300-550
		oz	25-35
		lb	300-425



Connoisseur Colombian	gold and red both rare	oz	35-55
Thai sticks	small green ones	lb	450-600
		one	20-30
Lebanese hash	fair	oz	175-225
		lb	80-115
Afghani hash oil	potent	oz	900-1200
LSD	brown blotter	gm	25-35
		hit	375-475
Peyote	abundant	100	1-3
Cocaine	heavily cut	one	75-175
		gm	0-25
		oz	75-125
			1100-1600

## WEST COAST

Domestic	supply increasing	oz	20-75
		lb	200-500
Commercial Mexican	steady	oz	15-25
Top-grade Mexican	short supply	lb	100-175
Commercial Colombian	high demand	oz	30-50
Connoisseur Colombian	bottom grade	oz	300-600
Hawaiian	scarce	oz	25-35
		lb	325-450
Thai sticks	supply dwindling	oz	40-60
		lb	475-600
Lebanese	excellent	oz	200-250
		one	2000-2500
Paki hash	red, sacked	oz	20-30
		lb	200-225
Afghani hash	just fair	oz	90-130
Honey oil	heavy toke	lb	900-1200
LSD	smooth and sweet	oz	100-145
		gm	1000-1500
Peyote	good blotter	oz	25-35
Cocaine	available	oz	400-500
	various qualities	gm	25-40
		oz	400-500
		one	1-2
		100	75-125
		one	30-50
		gm	65-120
		oz	1100-2000

## NORTHWEST

Regular Mexican	abundant	oz	15-25
Top-grade Mexican	available	lb	100-275
Commercial Colombian	quality and quantity on decrease	oz	35-60
Connoisseur Colombian	occasional gold and/or red	lb	425-600
Lebanese hash	not the best but good	oz	25-35
		lb	325-450
Moroccan hash	fair	oz	25-35
		lb	375-525
Afghani hash	excellent when found	oz	1-3
Lebanese hash oil	spicy	100	75-125
Afghani hash oil	OK	one	25-50
Honey oil	highly refined	gm	70-120
LSD	blotter mostly	oz	1100-1600
		hit	25-35
Peyote	definitely good	oz	25-35
Cocaine	generally poor to fair	gm	70-120
Psilocybin	available	oz	1100-1600
		hit	25-35

## ALASKA

Domestic	good quality, scarce	oz	35-60
Regular Mexican	fair supply	lb	425-550
Top-grade Mexican	excellent Oaxacan available	oz	20-30
Commercial Colombian	low grade	lb	250-350
Connoisseur Colombian	immature, gold	oz	40-65
Hawaiian	rare	lb	425-575
		oz	25-40
Thai sticks	full green ones	lb	350-475
LSD	very good	oz	50-75
	fair supply	lb	475-600
Cocaine	OK	oz	225-275
		one	2300-3000
		hit	25-35
		100	200-250
		gm	175-275
		oz	75-125
		oz	1600-2300

## HAWAII

Commercial	barely decent	oz	30-45
Colombian		lb	425-550
Connoisseur	Punta Roja	oz	50-75
Colombian		lb	500-650
Kona gold	amazing	oz	75-125
		lb	1000-1600
Maui	refreshing	oz	75-125
		lb	1100-1700
LSD	brown blotter	hit	2-3
		100	125-175
Cocaine	good flake	gm	80-120
	available	oz	1500-2000

## EASTERN CANADA

Domestic	better landscape	oz	10-20
	than smoke	lb	150-225
Regular	the usual, poor	oz	15-25
Mexican	to good	lb	150-225
Top-grade	mostly mixed with	oz	35-40
Mexican	regular	lb	400-550
Commercial	mostly shake	oz	25-40
Colombian	and seeds	lb	375-450
Connoisseur	a rare find	oz	45-65
Colombian		lb	475-600
Hawaiian	a connoisseur's	oz	175-250
	delight	lb	2000-3000
Afghani hash	potent and tasty	oz	150-200
		lb	1300-1800
Indian hash	poor ingredients,	oz	100-150
	poor quality	lb	1200-1550
Kashmir hash	Pick of the Month	oz	150-225
		lb	1500-2000
Afghan	high potential	gm	25-35
hash oil	for future	oz	375-500
Honey oil	no finer	gm	25-40
		oz	425-550
MDA	always good	gm	25-30
Cocaine	semipure	gm	75-125
	and flake	oz	1400-1800
LSD	U.S. imports,	hit	2-5
	blotters	100	150-225

## FOREIGN

### AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Domestic hash	improving	oz	15-30
		lb	225-350
Senegalese &	quantity fluctuating	oz	45-65
Congolese		kilo	700-1300
Moroccan hash	decent quality	oz	50-70
		lb	800-1000
Lebanese hash	little imported	oz	50-75
	of late	kilo	850-1000
Pakistani hash	good	oz	50-75
		kilo	900-1200
Kashmiri hash	excellent, rare	oz	55-80
		kilo	1100-1300
Hash oil	good Afghani	liter	2000
LSD	worthy	hit	2-4
		100	130-200
Cocaine	easily avoided	gm	75-125
		oz	1100-2000
Burmese opium	wonderful	gm	3-5
		oz	60-75

### AZORES ISLANDS

Angolan grass	great if found	oz	35-50
		lb	400-700
Mozambique	very good, res ny	oz	60-80
grass		lb	550-800
Quaaludes	just a few Rx	one	2-3
		100	75-150
Dormadinas	Spanish ludes	one	1-2
		100	75-150
Morphine	potent	oz	5-10
		lb	100

### BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Santa Marta	sweet and potent	oz	5-7
gold, red		lb	30-40
Macchu Picchu	upcoming prime	oz	5-7
	harvest	lb	23-32
Punta Roja	the grower's stash	oz	7-9
		lb	30-50
Colombian hash	poor basics	lb	30-50
		100 lb	2000-3000
Colombian	still unpure and harsh	oz	175-225
hash oil		lb	2000-2500
LSD	experimental	hit	3-5
		100	250-400
Mushrooms	heavy growth	lb	3-5
Cocaine	flake very good	oz	300-450
	to excel ent	lb	4500-5500
	rock for the	oz	250-350
	rugged nose	lb	4000-5000

## BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Chitral hash	decent; scarce	gm	2-3
		oz	45-60
Lebanese hash	varied quality	oz	35-50
		b	400-500
Nepalese hash	fingers and chunks	oz	45-75
		b	450-575
Nigerian grass	could be better;	oz	25-35
	poorly grown	lb	400-500
Cocaine	mostly cut,	gm	50-100
	scarce pure	oz	1050-1500
LSD	too many chemicals	hit	2-5
		100	225-325

## COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Lebanese hash	plentiful, mediocre	gm	2-3
	to good	lb	625-850
Moroccan hash	black decent;	gm	1-50-2-50
	green poor	lb	600-750
LSD	mostly poor and	hit	2-4
	speedy	100	125-200

## FRANKFURT, GERMANY

Lebanese hash	supply constant	gm	2-3
		kilo	1100-1200
Afghani hash	highest quality	oz	40-60
		lb	500-700
Moroccan hash	good quality only	oz	35-50
		lb	450-550
Thai sticks	a special treat	one	10-12
		100	800-900
LSD	pills and blotters	hit	3-4
		100	350-375
Cocaine	high-grade flake	gm	60-100
		oz	400-650
Speed	amphetamine &	gm	20-35
	methadone	oz	400-450
Heroin	French-Turkish	gm	40-75
		oz	1000

## GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Torreón violet	fantastic	oz	5-10
		b	40-60
Guadalajara	a lesson in	oz	3-4
green	domestics	lb	25-40
Oaxacan tops	good quality	oz	4-7
	for price	lb	30-50
Guerrero gold	a pretty plant	oz	4-6
		lb	40-60
Pueblo	for taste and aroma	oz	5-8
		lb	40-60
Magis	organic trips	oz	4-5
mushrooms		lb	30-50
Cocaine	blow your mind out	gm	25-40
		oz	500-750
Opium	heavy meditation	oz	400-500
		lb	5000

## HONG KONG

Mainland weed	poor to fair	oz	10-15
		lb	100-150
Thai grass	devastating	oz	50-100
		lb	500-950
Thai sticks	tasty brown and	one	8-12
	green	oz	75-150
Afghan hash	the best	gm	8-12
		oz	75-150
Heroin	international variety	oz	90-125
		lb	1000

## ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Turkish hash	excellent	oz	5-8
		lb	70
Antonia hash	heavy opium content	oz	8-10
		lb	100
LSD	microdots and	hit	7-12
	blotters	100	400-700
Opium	some excellent	oz	3-6
	imports	lb	60

## KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Local hash	can always get	oz	1-2
	better	lb	50-75

Water-pressed	better available	oz	1-1 50
hash		kilo	30-50
Shirac hash	tremendous	oz	3-6
		kilo	100-200
Mazar--Sharif	the greatest	oz	5-8
		kilo	125-250

## LONDON, ENGLAND

Moroccan hash	mediocre	oz	50-70
		lb	600-750
Lebanese hash	blonde decent	oz	70-80
		lb	800-900
Afghan hash	the best	oz	70-90
		lb	800-900
Colombian hash	worst of the bunch	oz	55-70
		lb	600-800
Hash oil	needs work	gm	25-35
		oz	400-500
LSD	good U.S. blotters	hit	2-5
		100	75-150
Cocaine	cut to shreds	gm	50-100
		oz	1200-1800
Mandrax	French 250s and	one	1-2
	500s	100	75-150

## MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Domestic grass	decent	oz	20-30
		lb	180-300
Nepalese hash	very potent	oz	80-110
		lb	900-1000
Indian hash	no bargain	oz	70-80
		lb	875-975
Afghani hash	best buy	oz	100-125
		lb	1100-1500
LSD	local chemistry	hit	2-5
Cocaine	big month for	gm	80-125
	lactose	oz	1750-2500

## PARIS, FRANCE

Yamba	an excellent African	oz	40-60
	import	lb	300-600
Colombian	becoming very	oz	30-55
	scarce	lb	425-700
Moroccan	poor	oz	30-50
		lb	350-500
Afghani hash	still the best	gm	5-7
		lb	900-1100
Chitral hash	varied quality	oz	50-70
		lb	500-700
LSD	microdots and tabs	hit	3-5
		100	200-325
Opium	good quality available	gm	12-15
Morphine	easy to get	gm	50-100

## QUITO, ECUADOR

Colombian	tasty gold and	oz	8-10
grass	red	lb	80-100
Ecuadorian red	could learn from	oz	4-5
	neighbors	lb	40-50
Cocaine	Bolivian best	gm	20-30
		oz	500-600
San Pedro	South American		free
cactus	peyote		

## ROME, ITALY

Colombian	some gold, scarce	oz	80-90
grass		lb	800-800
Lebanese hash	the same sacks	oz	100
		100 gm	300
Afghani hash	best import	oz	100-110
		100 gm	270-300
Moroccan hash	some good black	oz	85-115
		100 gm	270-285
LSD	blotters and dots	hit	4-5
		100 gm	300-350
Cocaine	too much cut	gm	40-80
		oz	900-1100
Speed	the 3-minute mile	gm	50
		oz	1000
Smack	China brown;	gm	100
	the best	oz	2000

**High Times** welcomes anonymous reports, but please be specific about the area, type, quantity and quality of dope referred to. If you are aware of other prices or have other relevant information or suggestions, please send them in. The THMQ is intended solely for comparative purposes and in no way is meant as an inducement to illegal activity, or as an endorsement of dope usage or trafficking, or as an endorsement of any particular dope. ☐





## Mushroom for Dissent

Contributing Editor Jonathan Ott, who conducted this month's interview with R. Gordon Wasson, is a graduate of the National University of Mexico. Ott has published many papers on the chemistry, pharmacology and cultural impact of hallucinogenic mushrooms. His first book, *Hallucinogenic Plants of North America*, has just been published by Book People in conjunction with the Fitz Hugh Ludlow Memorial Library.

In this month's letter column (page 8), Ott takes on two *High Times* heretics:

Glenn O'Brien, whose "Piss, Leather and Western Civilization" in the August issue took Wasson's mushroom theories into some seemingly unlikely areas (New York's S & M bars); and Gary Stimeling, whose sidebar to that article offered a scientific analysis of the notorious fly agaric mushroom, which Ott considers science fiction.

## Anything for Rex

Rex Weiner, author of "Wild Parties" (page 54), is best known in Secret Service circles as Chief Agent of Pie-Kill Unlimited—the original "Have pie, will travel" organization offering pie-for-pay attacks on any target if the price is right. But Rex is also the editor of *Reliable Source*, a national satirical news-magazine that made its debut at the Democratic National Convention. In the good old days, Rex was publisher of the underground New York *Ace* and, before that, was movie critic for the *East Village Other*.



## Our Proboscologist

Before coming to *High Times*, John Graff ("Your Nose and Cocaine," page 64) passed through such varied institutions as a Benedictine monastery, Catholic University, the Living Theater and the Hog Farm commune. A prize-winning

## A Real Lulu

Trina Robbins is a veteran of the East Village Other and the National Lampoon. She put together "Wet Satin," the first women's erotic fantasy underground comix.

Trina's latest creation is *Lulu*, the leggy superlady created especially for *High Times*. We cannot yet reveal *Lulu's* origin; all we can say is that Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, did not live in vain.

poet, John's last *High Times* article was "Cocaine Wine" (Aug./Sept. 1975), which explained why the Gay Nineties were so gay. Thanks to a federal grant, he is now researching an article for us on sensory deprivation.

## Stamping Out Lenny

Lenny Bruce's *Stamp Help Out! The Pot Smokers* made its first public appearance in 1962 at beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti's famed City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco. Bruce had recently been busted in Philadelphia for narcotics. Found in his hotel room were 25 syringes, 4 needles, 36 ampules of Methedrine, a bottle of narcotic liquid and numerous pills. But then, nobody's perfect. Lenny got off after much hassling when a doctor's testimony proved that his drugs were legally prescribed. His next gig was San Francisco where he was busted and facing imprisonment for the use of such now-passable words as: bullshit, shit, motherfucker, penis, asshole, tits, pricks, cocks, cunts, dikes, fags, and especially cocksucker.

Lenny got off with a \$100 fine and hoped that sales of his book would help pay his lawyer's fee. But on October 5, 1962, Lenny was busted for heroin in Van Nuys, California. It was his third bust in a year. His fourth came in Los Angeles on October 24, for obscenity. Then another obscenity bust in Chicago on December 6. Lenny was booked into New York's Village Vanguard from January 3 through February 10, 1963. On February 11 he was due in court in L.A. During this gig, a new wild, raving Lenny emerged, whom his biographer Albert Goldman sees as a sort of tribal shaman, casting out his own demons. A shaman goes into insanity to overcome it. Lenny was letting the spirits out, his own and his tribe's, and the spirits were dangerous. Maybe Lenny thought that suppressing *Stamp Help Out!* would keep some of the legal demons off his back. But who knows? Luckily, at least one copy survived, excerpts of which appear for the first time in this issue.

Thanks to chic Eder, who originally published the book, and to Sally Marr, who graciously gave us a release. ■



Gottlieb & creation

## Natty Apologies

For a dreadful mistake. Last month's cover of Rasta Marley and our favorite herb was shot especially for *High Times* by Kim Gottlieb, a very talented lady from L.A. who has the confidence of Rastamen everywhere. We must have been herbal meditating when we should have been proof-reading. Thanks, Kim, for the I-tal images.

## Bodé Biog Bio

Dennis O'Neil ("The Death of the Cheech Wizard," page 60) is an employee of D.C. Comics. He comes from St. Louis, where he attended military school, earned a B.S. and met Vaughan Bodé at a science fiction convention. He has written two novels, a history book, 20 short stories and 500 comic books. He has also worked as a crime reporter—that's where he learned about autopsies. Denny just



O'Neil

published "Secret Origins of Super Heroes" (published by Harmony House). It's about how such stars as Wonder Woman, Green Arrow, Batman, Captain Marvel and Green Lantern broke into show business. He also lectures the pop culture circuit.

## Up in Arms

Some *High Times* readers, particularly women, were a bit shocked by the cover on our August issue. We thought we would experiment with new concepts, which is what *High Times* is about. But the background color made us look like a girlie mag! (See improved version, right.)



August cover







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